

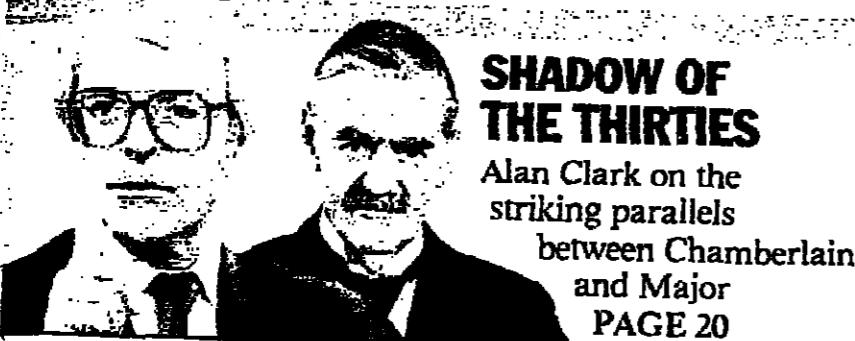
THE TIMES



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TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996



SHADOW OF THE THIRTIES

Alan Clark on the striking parallels between Chamberlain and Major PAGE 20



PAMELLA BORGES

A new life after the Andrew Neil affair PAGE 18



FORGOTTEN LANDSCAPES

The neglected masterpieces of Rubens PAGE 37



PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

See how your players are performing PAGES 24, 25

Serious allegations 'must be resolved'

Speaker calls for inquiry into 'sleaze'

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE



"D'you ever worry your kids might drift into politics?"

THE Speaker yesterday increased the pressure on the Government over the cash-for-questions affair by demanding a full and speedy investigation into "very serious" allegations made against MPs and ministers since the collapse of Neil Hamilton's libel case against *The Guardian*.

Mrs Betty Boothroyd said that the reputation of the whole House had been called into question and she felt very strongly that the whole issue must be resolved quickly by an inquiry that was "as transparent as possible".

Within 90 minutes, the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges was meeting to consider her request and to hear the parliamentary watchdog Sir Gordon Downey appeal for more staff and resources to carry out a wide-ranging inquiry that could take several months.

Miss Boothroyd took some Conservative MPs by surprise with her forthright remarks. Some were irritated that she had effectively scuppered any chance of a limited inquiry and that her strong language would keep the issue in the public eye.

Ministers had hoped that any new inquiry would not include allegations that the

promised that "all necessary steps" would be taken to ensure that the committee and Sir Gordon had enough staff.

Miss Boothroyd's intervention came as both Labour and the Liberal Democrats were pressing for a wider inquiry. Both were also urging her to rule on whether Mr Willets should be referred to Sir Gordon for allegedly trying to influence the Commons select committee on members' interests.

Last night it appeared that the case of Mr Willets' memorandum on a conversation with the former committee chairman Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, would be considered by the committee but not specifically by Sir Gordon.

Sir Gordon has already started work on a report for the committee on *The Guardian's* claims that Mr Hamilton accepted cash from the Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed for tabling parliamentary questions. Both Mr Hamilton and Ian Greer, the lobbyist said by the newspaper, have acted as Mr Al Fayed's intermediary, have expressed their willingness to appear before Sir Gordon.

In her statement, Miss Boothroyd said: "While the House has been adjourned very serious allegations have been widely made about the conduct of a number of Members. Indeed, the reputation of the House as a whole has been called into question."

"As Speaker, I am bound to be concerned about that. It is not for me to make any kind of judgment on the merits of the complaints made. But I would not be doing my duty as Speaker if I allowed the situation to pass without saying that I believe very strongly that these matters must be resolved as soon as possible."

Mr Blair denied that there was any comparison with John Major's "back to basics" campaign. "This is not some cry for a return to Victorian values but a call for a return to the basic decent values my generation grew up with but which have been eroded."

Last night the Conservatives hit back, saying that the speech was "new rhetoric with policies firmly rooted on the tradition of the nanny state." Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, said it was "just a cover up for saying Labour will interfere in people's lives." It was "phonny Tony the TV evangelist".

Leading article, page 21

Blair leads crusade for family values

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday reopened the battle for the moral high ground in politics with a pledge that the aim of every department in a Labour government would be to support family and community life.

In a speech in South Africa he said that his dream of the decent society in Britain would be built on the values of a strong family unit.

He defended the plans put forward by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, for child curfews. He said parents had a responsibility to know where their children were and what they were doing. "I can see no reason at all for young children to be out on their own late at night, and I can see many reasons why they should not be — not least their own safety. We are examining

measures to tackle this. Some have called it curfew. I call it child protection."

Mr Blair denied that there was any comparison with John Major's "back to basics" campaign. "This is not some cry for a return to Victorian values but a call for a return to the basic decent values my generation grew up with but which have been eroded."

The proceedings should be as transparent as possible so as to maintain public confidence. At the end the issues ought to be resolved by a decision of this House."

Matthew Parris, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 11
Woodrow Wyatt, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Dunblane report 'fails to back total handgun ban'

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD CULLEN is believed to have stepped back from calling for a total ban on handguns in his Dunblane massacre report, opting for less draconian controls.

Ministers were said to be "relaxed" about the 200-page report, which was delivered to the Government in the early hours yesterday. They are expected to agree at a Cabinet committee meeting this morning to go ahead instead with a ban on storing handguns at home. The compromise will anger campaigners in Dunblane who want a total ban.

Lord Cullen conducted a five-week inquiry after Thom-

Mary Walz, she says Barings' deputy chairman told her that she was a star

Barings 'owe me £500,000'

BY ADRIAN LEE

A FORMER director of Barings bank claimed yesterday that she was entitled to a £500,000 bonus agreed the day before Nick Leeson brought the company down with losses of £860 million.

Mary Walz, who was ultimately dismissed and criticised by the Bank of England for failing to monitor Leeson's activities, said that Barings' deputy chairman had told her that she was a "star" and she believed that the bonus agreement was "set in stone".

She is claiming that the refusal by ING, the Dutch company which rescued Barings, to pay the money was an unlawful deduction of her wages. ING says that the agreement was informal, had

not been approved at senior level and that since the bank collapsed the next day, there was no profit-sharing pool from which she could be paid.

Mary Walz, 36, of Biders Wharf, central London, was global head of equity financial products and her responsibilities included the derivatives operation in which Leeson traded in Singapore. She joined Barings in 1992 at a salary of £80,000 plus a £160,000 bonus and the following year, her bonus rose to £130,000 on top of a £93,000 salary. On January 1, 1994, she became a director and was sent to Hong Kong to oversee the bank's Far East trading, an industrial tribunal in Stratford, east London, was told.

Miss Walz said that at 11am on February 23 last year, she was called to see the deputy chairman, Andrew Tuckey, in his 18th-floor office at Barings' Bishopsgate headquarters.

She said: "I knew it would be for the formal announcement of my bonus. He handed me a slip of paper containing my name and a figure of £500,000. It was the figure I expected to see. He said something like 'Mary what can I say? You are a star.' He continued how everyone was very pleased. I thanked him."

Mr Tuckey had joked that she should "not spend it all in one place" and she replied that she might spend it on a painting. "There was no men-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Earth cooling off after climate flip

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP cooling of the planet occurred this year, reversing the warming trend that began in the early 1980s. Meteorological Office scientists say.

Dr Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia and Dr Dave Parker of the office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research said the dip in temperature was due to a phenomenon known as the North Atlantic oscillation which has flipped for the first time in 10 to 15 years.

During most years, there is low pressure over Iceland and a high over the Azores in the winter months. It means that westerly winds dominate blowing over the British Isles

and into northern Europe and Russia.

But this year there was a "flip" similar to the famous freezing winter of 1963, with a high between Scotland and Iceland and low in the Azores leading to easterly winds sweeping in from Siberia and the Arctic. These led to freezing Siberian winds blasting most of Canada and northern Europe, including Britain over Christmas and during the early part of the year.

This year will be 0.2 to 0.15 degrees C cooler than 1995, the hottest year on record, and 1990, the second hottest.

Gun club fears, page 10

Forecast, page 26

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LAW REPORT 45

Cereal stalker fails to dish Bottomley

"I'M only too easy to meet," cried Virginia Bottomley to a crowd of startled MPs, re-gathered after the summer recess yesterday, "in any number of settings!"

What could the fragrant Mrs Bottomley mean? What settings did she have in mind? Parascending? Boating on the Serpentine? Call me uninviting, but a cup of tea in her office would surely do.

The Heritage Secretary had been goaded into this surprising offer by her Labour Shadow, John Cunningham. At Questions yesterday, he asked her to confirm that for £500 one could have joined Mrs Bottomley at breakfast during her party's conference last week at Bournemouth. "Is

that proper?" In fact, Mr Cunningham was taking something of a liberty with these reports.

It seems Tories with funds to spare were being invited to sponsor the breakfast, but those with no more than loose change to offer were still permitted to approach the great lady at the muesli bar. Still, Cunningham decided to take a crack, and who can blame him?

Unable to decide whether to be indignant or dismissive, Mrs B decided to be coquettish. So cheery a picture did she paint of her approachability at breakfast, at tea-time or at any other time that one wondered where she finds any time at all to be Heritage

Secretary. This merry informality she contrasted with the £1,000 Labour charge for nos-ups with Tony Blair in Park Lane".

It seems an odd reversal of the old certainties, much in keeping with John Major's attacks on the old school he brigade on Labour's front bench. Time was when a Tory would have boasted how expensive they were to dine with, not how cheap. When Tam Dalyell returned to the subject minutes later, Mrs Bottomley went further. For

most breakfasters at Bournemouth, she insisted, it cost only £7.50 to join her.

And there was more. "I am available at virtually every major tourist event."

Really? The Changing of the Guards and Mrs Bottomley? Bottomley at Stonehenge? Bottomley among the Crown Jewels? Bottomley at the Zoo? At your picnic at Henley? Leading the donkey rides at Cleethorpes? There can only be one logical conclusion to Mrs Bottomley's dash for crowd appeal.

Can Mystic Meg's contract with the BBC be safe for much longer?

MPs had reconvened yesterday to be told of the death of Terry Patchett. They knew, already, of course, but by custom these announcements are made immediately after prayers and before the business of the day. "I regret to have to report to the House the death of Terry Patchett," said Betty Boothroyd, in a tone respectful but perfectly matter-of-fact, "the Member for Barnsley East." And, after a terse message of condolence, that was that. The House moved on.

In *The Literary Companion to Parliament*, an anthology shortly to be published by Sinclair-Stevenson, the editor, Christopher Silvester, quotes Norman Shrapnel, the *Manchester Guardian's* great sketchwriter, on 8 July 1960: "I regret to have to inform the House, the Speaker told the Commons when it met yesterday, of the death of the Right Honourable Aneurin Bevan, the Member for Ebbw Vale."

It was, writes Shrapnel, "a frequent sort of announcement, usually applying to some devoted backbencher of whom the public has scarcely heard." Its very informality, he adds, its unvarying manner and timing, serve as acknowledgement "that all men are equal at this point in their career".

Critics dismiss proposed safeguards for independence as inadequate

FO backs Birt plans for World Service

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND CAROL MIDDLETON

JOHN BIRT'S shake-up of the BBC World Service was broadly endorsed by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, last night in the face of widespread criticism of the reforms.

An independent report into the changes urged Mr Birt, the BBC Director-General, to introduce various safeguards to protect the World Service but did not oppose the main proposals to merge the service with other BBC news departments. Mr Birt faced widespread criticism from senior World Service managers and MPs after he announced radical restructuring to cut costs. Under the plans, English language programmes, which make up one-fifth of the output, are to be commissioned

from BBC Productions or independent producers, while news is to be commissioned from BBC News.

Critics have claimed that the changes would "rip the heart out of the World Service". But yesterday Mr Rifkind met Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, to agree that the reforms should go ahead with safeguards to ensure the service's future independence.

Last night opponents of the restructuring said the measures were too weak. Stephen Parker, of Save the World Service, said: "The actual ethos, the fundamental factor that makes the World Service so distinctive, will be lost."

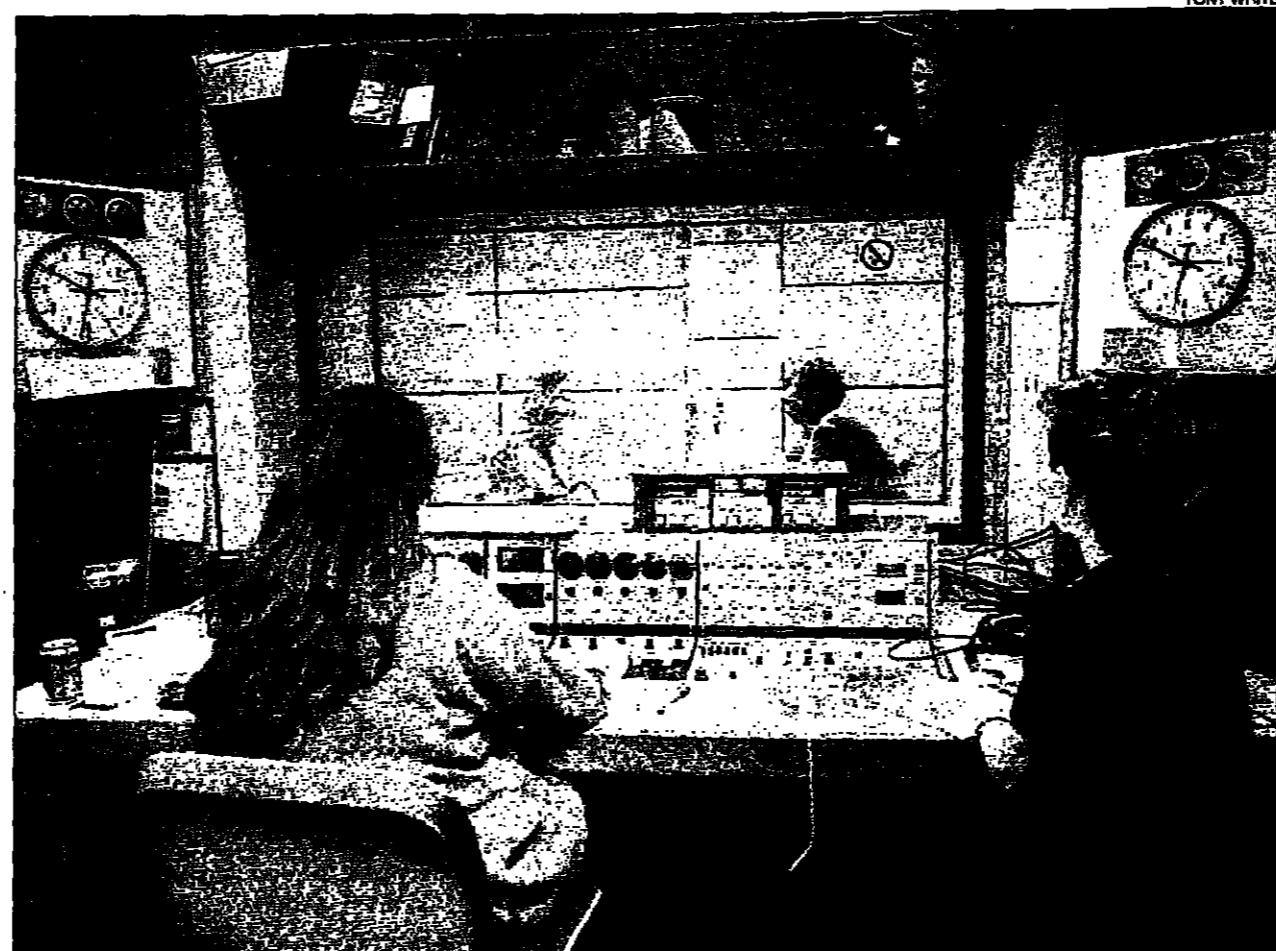
"That is very much based upon the people here at Bush House and they will be lost because a sizeable number will be working in other parts of the service we all value."

John Tusa, the former head of the World Service and a staunch opponent of the plans, was also said to be disappointed at the compromise.

But Mr Birt said: "The process has strengthened the World Service, helped safeguard the quality and ethos of the service. Critics said it spelled the end of the World Service's editorial independence."

Sir Christopher added: "We welcome the clear and explicit safeguards contained in the working group's report; we believe we now have a firm foundation for the detailed planning and implementation of the reorganisation process."

Mr Birt faced a formidable



The World Service will leave Bush House, under plans endorsed by Malcolm Rifkind yesterday

protest campaign involving prominent public figures, over his plans. He said the news operations of the World Service and the domestic BBC would be merged under one roof.

The World Service would move from its historic home Bush House to be produced from the BBC's television headquarters in west London, in a move which would save money and improve the service. Critics said it spelled the end of the World Service's editorial independence.

Although the report by the working group set up in the wake of the furore insists that the World Service should be a dedicated unit, it does not oppose a merger. Foreign Office sources acknowledged that the World Service staff would move to White City

from Bush House but said they would operate as a separate unit.

The report says the main priority must be to keep together the team producing English World Service news and current affairs programmes and services in foreign languages. Although the authors of the report recognised that there might be a period when the two sections were separated as staff moved to a new headquarters, they emphasised that the period should be kept to a minimum.

Campaigners said last night there had been no significant changes to Mr Birt's plans. "We have still to be convinced. There is still a lot of concern," said one BBC insider.

Radio and TV, pages 50, 51

Tusa calls for TV news to show reality of war

THE "ghastly reality" of war must not be hidden from British television viewers, a former head of the BBC World Service said yesterday.

John Tusa also said the news networks must avoid "a pornography of violence".

Speaking at an awards ceremony for freelance cameramen, Mr Tusa said: "Bloodstains on the ground or a small crater are wholly inadequate substitutes for the actuality of multiple killings. It is an evasion to say that they are and a misuse of the bravery of camera crews and journalists, whether they are

freelance or not, to say that they are."

He went on: "We must avoid a pornography of violence, where networks start to compete with one another in the amount of gore they show. But when some viewers complain about violence on the news, when it is an essential part of the knowledge needed to assess what is happening, I believe the only answer is to say, 'I'm sorry, we will not censor the ghastly reality, for that is the only way that you the voters, the citizens, can be properly informed about the world'."

Guerin police claim progress

POLICE investigating the murder of crime journalist Veronica Guerin in Dublin said they have seized more than 100 guns, broken up three criminal gangs, seized £500,000 in cash and cannabis worth £600,000 since the shooting in June. Detectives said the killing is not thought to have been carried out by contract killers, as first believed, but by gunmen acting on the orders of a known crime boss.

Dangerous double killer on run

A double killer was still on the run last night after absconding last month from an open prison where he was being prepared for release. David Burgess, 49, walked out of Leyhill open prison near Bristol where he was being detained for the murder of two nine-year-old girls in 1987. Police in Avon and Somerset described him as dangerous.

MPs to congratulate Damon Hill

MPs will be asked today to sign an early day motion tabled by the Labour MP Richard Burden to congratulate Damon Hill and his team on winning the Formula One World Championship. More than 1.5 million viewers got up before 4.45am on Sunday to watch the BBC's live broadcast of Hill's victory in the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka.

Baldry squares up for fight with EU over Spanish 'quota hopping'

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN LUXEMBOURG

EUROPE'S fishing ministers yesterday rejected a call by Brussels for a 40 per cent cut in the fish catch but Britain set the scene for a fight with the rest of the union over "quota-hopping" Spanish trawlers.

Bombarded with criticism by ministers, Emma Bonino, the Fisheries Commissioner, edged away from a fierce cut in the fishing fleet. Officials said the Commission could accept a reduction in fleet of about 15 per cent provided measures were in place to

ensure a heavier reduction in the catch over six years, especially of endangered stocks, such as cod, haddock and sardines. Philippe Vasseur, the French Agriculture Minister, said he believed the ministers would eventually settle by the end of the year on a 10 per cent reduction in the fleet with measures to ensure conservation.

Britain staked out ground for conflict by saying it refused to contemplate any reduction in fleet capacity until the EU barred quota-hopping, the practice under which Spanish vessels have bought rights to fish from British quotas. The

European Court rejected a British appeal against the practice and London is insisting on reversing the law with a protocol the revised Maastricht treaty, now under negotiation. Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, told the other ministers that it was "crazy" that Spanish vessels should be taking a fifth of Britain's allowed catch.

He became involved in a testy exchange with Loyola de Palacio, the Spanish minister, after she interrupted him to reject the suggestion that Spanish vessels were involved in "piracy". Britain's insistence on quotas jarred with its support for the free movement of goods and capital in the European Single Market, she said.

Since the European treaty negotiations will not end until next June at the earliest, Britain is likely to be outvoted over fishing capacity as early as December. The new fishing programme, to run from 1997, is determined by a qualified majority vote, a system that gives Britain no veto power.

Mr Baldry insisted that Britain would not disobey the law but did not explain how it could still refuse "to contemplate" any reduction in its capacity.

Barings 'star' claims £500,000

Continued from page 1

tion of the award being provisional or requiring any further approval." The next day, Leeson's losses were uncovered and Miss Walz was subsequently told that the bonus would not be paid.

Miss Walz held to be partly to blame for Leeson's actions, and on May 1 she was summoned to the 20th floor and presented with two letters: one of resignation, the other of dismissal. She said she chose to be fired because there was no financial inducement to resign.

Miss Walz said that she understood her annual bonus was guaranteed, whatever the company's performance. It was not feasible that Mr Tuckey would have communicated the bonus figure to her if it were provisional. "Mr Tuckey was simply the boss."

Anthony Sendall, for Miss Walz, said that the bonus was due to be paid in two tranches — £20,000 and £480,000 — for tax reasons. By offering her the bonus, or

at least the expectation of one, Barings had entered into a contract. "We say that notification took place on 23rd February 1995. "We say the bonus then became contractual."

Bonuses were entirely expected by Barings' staff and were frequently many times higher than the basic salary; in 1993 the company's "bonus pool" for all its employees was almost £100m, roughly half the profits.

Mr Nicholas Underhill, QC, for ING Barings, said that it was preposterous that anyone in Miss Walz's position should expect a bonus for a year in which the company suffered huge losses.

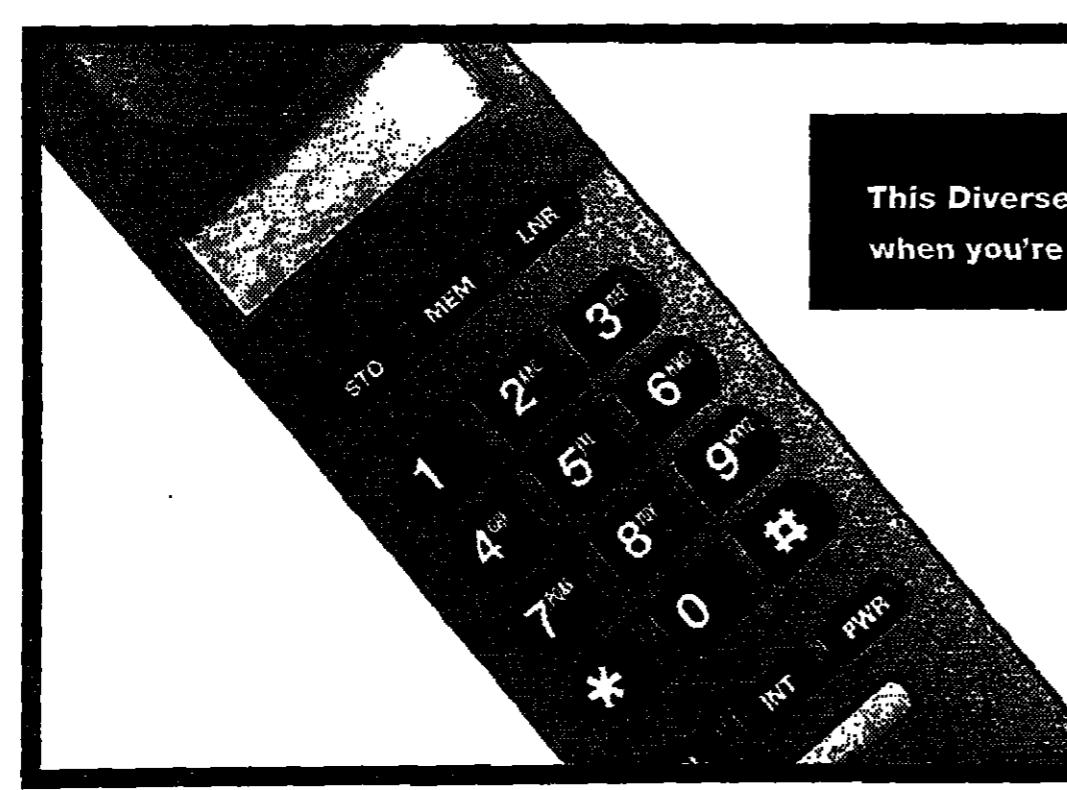
"This is a surprising claim. What is surprising is that Barings' global head of equity financial products can claim to be entitled to receive a bonus in respect of a period in which Barings' derivatives division in Singapore had made catastrophic losses that drove the bank into insolvency. It would be surprising if she

was entitled to a bonus in these circumstances whether or not she was culpable." of the award being provisional or requiring any further approval."

Mr Underhill thought there could be no dispute that she had "some responsibility" for Leeson, even if not in every respect. "It was the evening following Miss Walz's being given her slip of paper that the balloon went up." But that was a side issue. "It is quite incredible she could have a legitimate expectation of payment of bonus at that time. There are serious criticisms of her conduct."

She had not, however, been singled out in having her bonus refused. No other Barings employee was given a bonus under the company profit-share scheme that year. Some employees, not tainted by the scandal and retained by ING, were given a different sort of bonus from ING funds as a form of "handcuffs" to ensure that they stayed with the bank.

The hearing continues today.



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BT It's good to talk

Tornado fighter pilot enjoys the ride as Britain's Thrust blasts from 0 to 200mph in a few seconds



The Thrust brakes with the help of a parachute on the Farnborough runway yesterday. At the controls was Flight Lieutenant Andy Green, below, who usually pilots a Tornado jet Picture by CHRIS HARRIS

Rocket car cleared for take-off on way to drive speed record through sound barrier

By ALAN COPPI

THE British car designed to push the land-speed record beyond the sound barrier reached 200 miles an hour on the runway at Farnborough airfield yesterday as its team prepared to set off for full-scale testing in the Jordanian desert.

The ten-tonne Thrust SSC, powered by twin Rolls-Royce jet engines, took just a few seconds to reach the maximum speed permitted along the runway at the Defence Engineering and Research Agency in Hampshire.

It was driven by Flight Lieutenant Andy Green, the RAF Tornado pilot selected to make the

attempt to break the current record of 633mph held by Richard Noble, the director of the Thrust project.

Flight Lieutenant Green said a series of test runs on the 8,000ft Farnborough runway had demonstrated the car's stability and that it had proved surprisingly easy to drive. The stability is ensured by an array of computer-controlled hydraulic systems.

Although the timing of the record attempt has now slipped by more than a year from its original schedule, Mr Noble said he was confident the car would be ready to break his existing record on that speed as soon as possible.

The Jordanian test site offered a harder and more consistent surface and more reliable weather

at the Al-Jafr airbase in Jordan. The attempt on the speed of sound, 750mph, is now expected to take place early next year in the Black Rock Desert, Nevada.

Mr Noble admitted that the Thrust project faced a formidable rival in Craig Breedlove, the veteran American record-breaker,

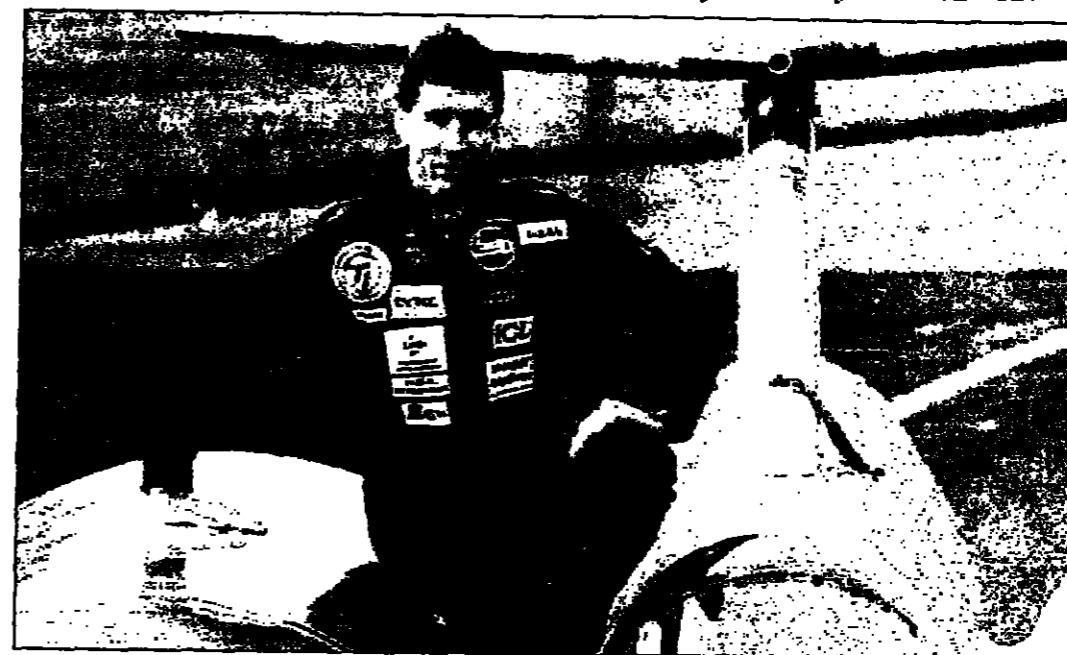
who has just completed test runs at 400mph on the Bonneville Salt Flats in his latest car, Spirit of America, also designed to break the sound barrier. He is now expected to move to the Black Rock Desert to make an attempt on that speed as soon as possible.

The Jordanian test site offered a harder and more consistent surface and more reliable weather

than the American track, said Mr Noble. But maximum speed was limited because at 10.2 miles the Al-Jafr track is shorter than Black Rock. Breedlove is expected to need at least 14 miles in his attempt.

Yesterday's test was the last public appearance of Thrust SSC in Britain before the car and its supporting equipment is packed into a giant Antonov transport aircraft for the flight to Jordan. The car will first have to be transported by road to Stansted airport in Essex because the fully laden Antonov could not take off from Farnborough.

Hill's morning after, page S2



Olympic bobsleigh driver given life ban for using steroids

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

MARK TOUT, Britain's Olympic bobsleigh driver, has been banned from the sport for life after testing positive for anabolic steroids.

Tout, 35, a former corporal in the Royal Tank Regiment, has become the first British competitor in any Winter Olympics sport to test positive for drugs. He has been banned for taking stanazolol, the anabolic steroid that the Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was using when he was stripped of the world record and Olympic 100 metres title in Seoul in 1988.

Tout, from London, had been training to take part in the 1988 Games in Nagano. They would have been his fifth winter Olympics, something no other Briton has achieved. He was the driver of both the four-man and two-man bob, which finished fifth and sixth respectively at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer. It was his ambition to end his career with an Olympic medal.

Tout was caught after a random out-of-competition test last month in Britain, supervised by sampling officers of the Sports Council. He said yesterday: "I feel I wouldn't have been caught, otherwise I wouldn't have done it. I will



Tout believed that he would not be caught

I feel that I have spoilt that by making a silly mistake and personally I feel that I have failed because I have come so close and now won't get the chance to complete the picture."

The British Bobsleigh Association's regulation of a life ban is among the harshest in British sport. Most governing bodies have only a four-year ban for a first offence, even for a serious case such as anabolic steroids, the hormone drugs that help competitors to build muscle and recover more quickly from intensive exercise.

Bobsleigh has been dominated in Britain by members of the Armed Forces. They have the time for hours of weight-training to develop the power to push the bob as fast as possible and for the months of practice in countries such as Switzerland, Austria and France. Britain does not have a bobsleigh run.

Johnny Woodall, a former British champion and Army major, said: "I am totally amazed by the news. Tout has had enough negative tests for this to be the most extraordinary bolt out of the blue. Maybe he was feeling as he gets older that his performance was suffering and he needed to do something to boost it. But I cannot believe it had been going on very long."

Provost resigns over new battle of Flodden

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN by two women to take part in a male-dominated ceremony dating back to the Scottish defeat at Flodden in 1513 led a council leader to resign yesterday.

Tom Hogg stepped down as provost of the Scottish border town of Hawick rather than fight the women in the sexual discrimination case which they are bringing. The Equal Opportunities Commission is due to decide next week whether it will back the women's case, but has already told them that it has sympathy for their cause.

Mr Hogg said yesterday in a letter of resignation that he was facing an unprecedented situation with which none of his predecessors had been forced to grapple.

"I have a deep belief in the traditions and customs from which Hawick has grown, and



Women at war: Miss Simpson, left, and Ms Graham

I cannot and will not betray these now," he wrote in his letter of resignation. "God knows that I've tried every minute of these last six months to resolve the issue that's tearing my town apart, but it remains unresolved."

As provost, Mr Hogg, 50, was in charge of the town's Common Riding festival, a series of 16 rides in June to commemorate a successful charge by boys of the town against a camp of English soldiers after the battle of Flodden. That ride is believed to have saved Hawick from being sacked and an annual festival has been held around the date to commemorate the event. Only men, however, have been allowed to take part other than for a short period between 1926 and 1931, when a number of women were allowed to join in by special invitation. No invitations were issued after that because one of the women taking part fell off, broke a leg and delayed the proceedings.

This year, however, Ashley Simpson and Mandy Graham, two horseriding enthusiasts from the town, decided to take part. "It was something I have always wanted to do," Miss Simpson, 23, said yesterday. "We were showered with abuse as we rode out, being called 'scum' and 'whore'. I have had a pint of beer tipped over me in a pub since then.

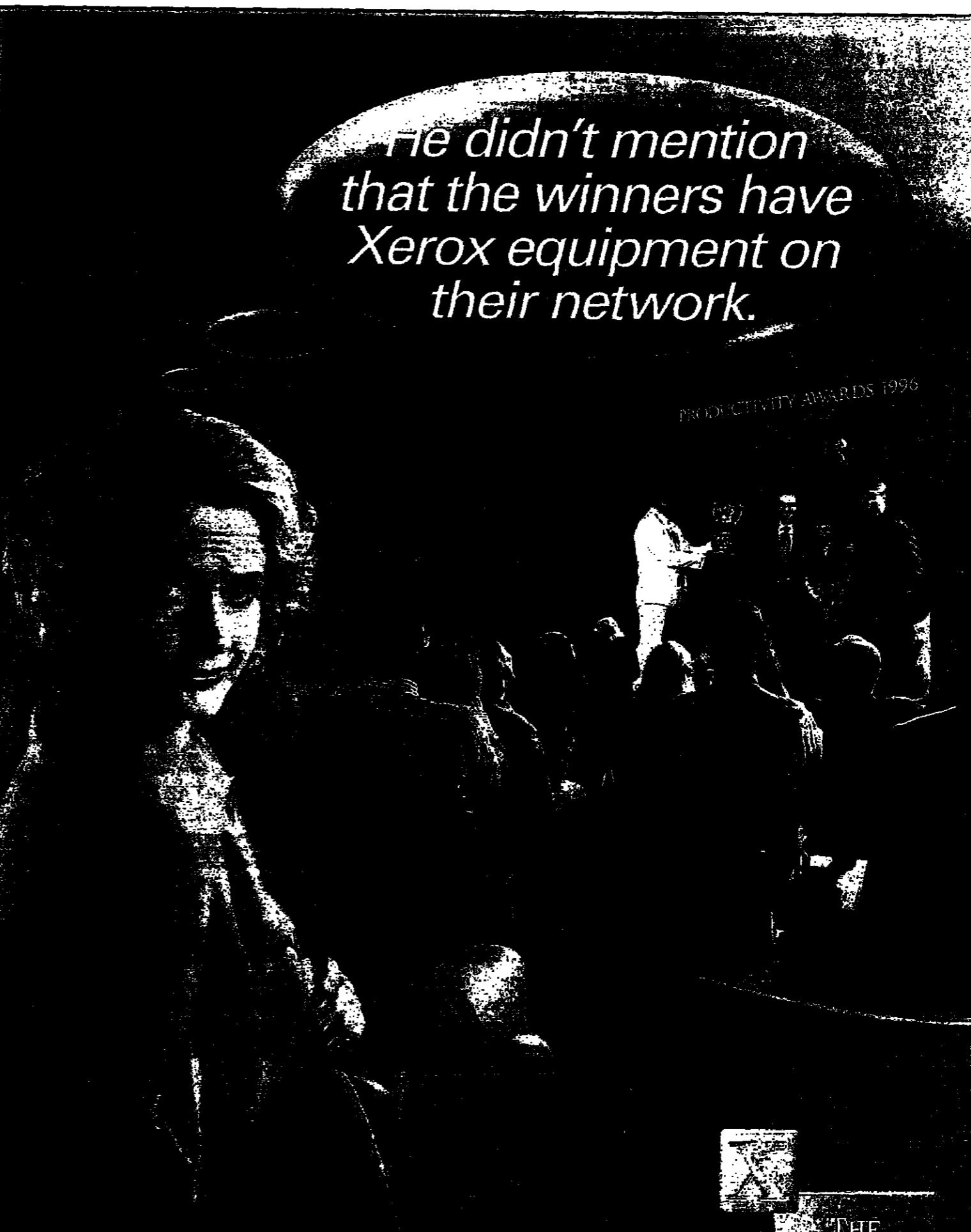
But I think that this is a celebration for the whole town and not just for men. It is my history as much as theirs. I am not a feminist. I just want to participate."

However, Frank Scott, secretary of the Common Riding,

said: "If women took part it would spoil everything."

He didn't mention that the winners have Xerox equipment on their network.

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Film about IRA leader stumbles at US opening

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

A FILM that stops just short of glorifying the birth of guerrilla warfare in Ireland has had a dismal opening weekend in America, thanks to bored reviews and dubious claims to authenticity.

The three-hour *Michael Collins*, billed by Warner Brothers as a definitive epic on one of the IRA's founders, barely registered at the box office. In spite of months of publicity it took in little more than \$1 million nationwide and was trounced by a children's film about ice hockey among other new releases.

Critics decried the film as action-packed but bland and unequal to its potent theme. "It is a short distance between the classic and the clichéd and *Michael Collins* crosses it in record time," the *New York Daily News* declared. *USA Today* complained that the film "falls between two extremes".

The Irish director Neil Jordan had delivered "a fantasy on historical themes" instead of "rigorous and nuanced honesty", *Time* magazine concluded.



Liam Neeson in *Michael Collins*, which opened in the US at the weekend

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Bosnia peace hero criticised as too political

General Rose could be outflanked for top post

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE SECOND most senior officer in the Army could be beaten to its top post of Chief of the General Staff in a string of Defence Ministry appointments to be announced next month.

General Sir Michael Rose, 56, the Adjutant General, and probably Britain's best known army commander after a distinguished career in the SAS, is viewed by some in the MoD as the obvious choice for the army's most senior appointment.

However, General Sir Roger Wheeler, 54, who commands three-quarters of the Army, is now considered to be the favourite to take the top job, which is expected to become vacant early next year. As Adjutant General, General Rose fills the No. 2 slot among the military members of the Army Board. General Wheeler is lower down the pecking order.

The apparent rivalry for the most senior post between General Rose and General Wheeler has arisen because of the widespread expectation

inside the MoD that General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, is to be promoted to the overall top Services' job of Chief of the Defence Staff.

The present Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, is due to retire early next year. General Guthrie and Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, are the only names on the shortlist to be the next Chief of the Defence Staff.

The Navy has been vigorously promoting Admiral Slater for the top military appointment, underlining not only his own credentials but also the quality of the candidates to replace him as First Sea Lord. One of the names put forward was Admiral Sir Hugo White, Governor of Gibraltar.

However, in recent weeks, General Guthrie has emerged as the favoured candidate. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is understood to have recommended the army man to replace Field Marshal

Inge. The prospect of having another general as Chief of the Defence Staff instead of an admiral has caused concern in the Navy.

If General Guthrie is confirmed by No 10 and Buckingham Palace as the next Chief of the Defence Staff, General Rose would normally be expected to move up to No 1 in the Army.

Some in the MoD are cautioning against his ap-

CSA introduces new criteria to payment rules

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

NEW rules on working out Child Support Agency payments were announced last night by the Department of Social Security. In future any parent incurring travel expenses to see a child will have the amount offset against their income before CSA maintenance is assessed.

The rules will also apply to cases in which a partner has received a "clean break" settlement on divorce and those in which parents are concealing their true incomes.

Andrew Mitchell, the Social Security Minister, also accepted the shortcomings of the agency as outlined in a report by the government Ombudsman. He said they were mainly cases from the early days of the agency, when clients did not get the level of service they had every right to expect.

However, changes such as an independent complaints examiner, better compensation arrangements and more efficient systems were helping to produce radical improvements to the CSA.

Among the cases highlighted by Sir William Reid, the Parliamentary Commissioner

for Administration, was that of a woman threatened by her former husband after the CSA mistakenly sent him a note containing information she had supplied.

The breach of confidence so alarmed the Ombudsman that he proposed to raise the incident with Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, unless the CSA gave her cash compensation. Initially the agency rejected any compensation and told Sir William that rules on special payments did not cover such "intangibles as worry and distress". Eventually it offered £250.

Over £6,000 was paid out in other cases investigated by the Ombudsman, who said yesterday: "Complaints against the CSA continue to form a disproportionate part of my caseload."

Most problems concerned errors and delays in dealing with applications from women for child-support maintenance. In one case, the CSA was so slow that the father in question had been made redundant by the time it was ready to assess his maintenance payments.

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Warning over fruit drink additives by food watchdog

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

FRUIT-FLAVoured bottled spring water contains a mix of potentially dangerous chemicals and is often loaded with sugar, the Food Commission claims today. It says that some are produced with low-cost additives and that manufacturers exploit an unjustified image of purity to push prices as high as £2.80 a litre.

Research into 24 brands published in *Food Magazine* shows that many of the most popular brands contain preservatives, colourings, artificial sweeteners and other additives. The commission says this makes a mockery of claims of purity on labels.

Ian Tokelove, its spokesman, said: "People with asthma are drinking some of these products and wondering why they are short of breath. The labels describe the drinks as spring water with a hint of flavouring, but this is not making clear that they are full of artificial chemicals."

Unlike mineral water, spring water has no legal definition and is usually obtained from bore holes into underground reservoirs. The

addition of flavours means it technically becomes a soft drink, making it legal to use chemicals including artificial sweeteners such as aspartame, which costs just 0.1p to flavour two litres of liquid, against 12p for sugar.

Where real sugar is used, the amounts are high. Sainsbury's tangerine flavoured Crystal Spa was found to contain more than a Coca-Cola and a 250ml carton of Ribena Spring had the equivalent of seven lumps. The British Dental Association said spring water drinks containing sugar increased the risk of tooth decay.

More serious, according to the magazine, is the use of the preservative sodium benzoate in half the products tested, which some research suggests may cause breathlessness and trigger hyperactivity, even though it has been approved by the European Union.

Christine Milburn, of the British Soft Drinks Association, said members were bound by regulations which ensured the purity of the source. "We add nothing

which has not been tested and approved by all 15 member states of the EU."

An EU directive passed last July means that manufacturers have to list all additives on the label, but it will be next summer before this comes fully into force. SmithKline Beecham, manufacturer of Ribena, said: "We use real sugar rather than artificial sweeteners because that is more wholesome."

Marks & Spencer adds aspartane and sodium benzoate. "These are both on the approved list of additives," a spokesman said. Sainsbury's said all the products tested by the commission were "designed to be refreshing". Company policy was to provide as much information as possible to customers. The company was now reviewing soft drinks labels and would add "with sweetener" to them where applicable.

Tesco denied that its labelling was misleading. Its water was from a 100 per cent natural source flavoured with natural fruit juices and there was no added sugar, it said.

Water companies say six new reservoirs are needed

By NICK NUTTALL,
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

SIX new reservoirs will be needed in east and south-east England to ensure water supplies into the next century as demand rises because of global warming and an increase in single households, water companies in England and Wales said yesterday.

Their warning was issued in advance of a government report on water resources into the 21st century, due today. The report will outline the threat to rivers, wetlands and other nature sites if too much is taken for supplies.

The Department of the Environment says that demand is soaring because of the

Yorkshire Water, criticised for its handling of last summer's drought, is to lift all restrictions on water use next month.

popularity of gardening and a projected growth in new households to more than four million, as well as rising temperatures and more frequent droughts.

Professor Paul Harrington of Loughborough University, who compiled the report, predicted that domestic consumption for appliances and gardening would rise by 36 per cent by 2021, and 41 per cent if there is significant global warming.

Brian Duckworth, manag-

ing director of Severn Trent and spokesman for the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the ten big companies, said domestic consumers would not accept more rationing so action had to be taken now for the future.

He said that there was a requirement for at least six new reservoirs to ensure an adequate margin of safety.

They will be designed for the East and South East. Two have already been proposed in Oxfordshire and Kent.

The Environment Agency has urged the companies to tackle leaks and demand management before it will consider backing development of new, and potentially environmentally damaging, resources such as reservoirs.



The Princess with Danielle Stephenson yesterday. The seven-year-old underwent pioneering surgery in May to rectify an irregular heartbeat.

Princess praises 'miracles' of heart surgeons

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales praised the "miracles" performed by heart specialists and the courage of their patients yesterday.

The Princess was helping to raise money for research into heart and lung disease with the help of Danielle Stephenson, from Southend, Essex. The girl is among dozens of heart patients the Princess has visited regularly at the Royal Brompton Hospital in west London.

At a reception in aid of the Heart of Britain charity, the Princess said she was "fascinated by the workings of the heart". In the foreword to a book of photographs aimed at raising money for the charity, the Princess wrote: "I have been privileged to see for myself the miracles — at the very leading edge of medicine today — performed by the teams of surgeons, doctors and nurses at Royal Brompton Hospital, whose dedication saves so many lives.

"I have been profoundly impressed, too, to see how bravely patients cope — and have been particularly touched by the courage and trust shown by Britain's little people — our children. All need our compassion, our love and our support at what is often their darkest hour."

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, the joint president of Heart of Britain who invited the Princess to attend an operation at Harefield Hospital in April, praised her "inspirational" care and compassion at the reception at Harrods, which was hosted by the store's chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed. The charity book contains 300 photographs showing scenes of modern life, submitted to a competition by amateur photographers. It costs £19.99, with all profits going to the charity.

Danielle became one of the first children in Britain to undergo new treatment in May this year to burn away abnormal electrical pathways inside her heart that were causing an irregular heartbeat.



Yates went to police

Yates gets bail in drug case

Paula Yates, the television presenter, has been released on police bail until December while investigations continue into the alleged discovery of opium at her home. Miss Yates, 36, former wife of Bob Geldof, was arrested when she went to Chelsea police station. She is said to have maintained that any drugs found at the home she shares with the rock singer Michael Hutchence must have been planted.

Aids man named

A hospital anaesthetist who died of an Aids-related illness, prompting hundreds of inquiries from worried patients, has been named as Gopinath Manohar. Mr Manohar, married with a three-year-old son, was a registrar anaesthetist at the Royal Albert Edward Hospital in Wigan.

Eco' evictions

Bailiffs evicted more than 50 protesters who had barricaded themselves into a self-styled eco-village set up on a 13-acre site beside the Thames in Wandsworth, southwest London, on derelict land owned by Guinness. One protester was arrested.

PROSECUTION

A report, "Call for curb on stage hypnotists" (September 23), failed to make clear that Philip Green was not the hypnotist in the stage act in which Sharon Tabern was involved, and was not connected in any way with her subsequent death. We apologise to Mr Green and his family.

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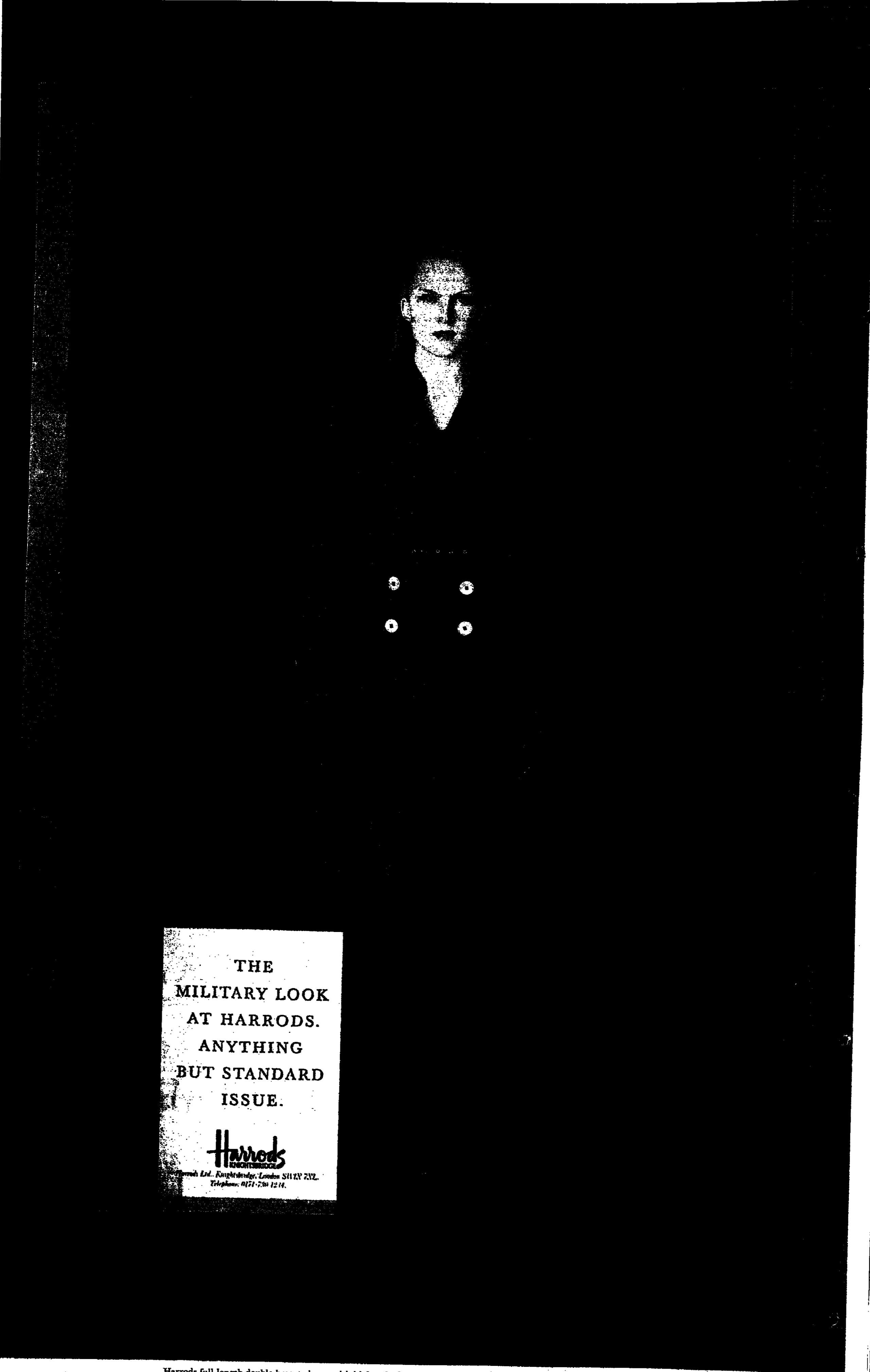
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Brother in mercy killing escapes prison sentence

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who killed his brother to end his suffering from a degenerative illness walked free from court yesterday.

The case, involving the first known mercy killing to come before the Scottish courts, was described as "exceptional" by the judge. Lord Macfadyen said he had considered a custodial sentence to make it plain to others that taking a life was unlawful, but there had been powerful mitigating factors.

Paul Brady, 37, who killed his brother James, 40, at his request on Boxing Day last year, was appearing for sentence in the High Court in Glasgow. He had originally been charged with murder but, three weeks ago, the Crown accepted a plea of guilty to the lesser charge of culpable homicide.

The family suffers from the hereditary disease, Huntington's chorea. Brady's grandfather and mother died from it, and in 1985 his brother was diagnosed as suffering from it. The court had been told that James Brady had pleaded with his sister Margaret to end his misery, but she had refused. He was allowed out of his nursing home in Glasgow to his house in the city for Christmas and, while he was being bathed, had asked his brother to kill him.

On Boxing Day, Brady, of



Brady: he acted out of compassion for brother

Strelmanthorpe, west Yorkshire, had given his brother some alcohol and an overdose of his medicine. When he returned to the room and heard him breathing, he had put a pillow over his face.

Lord Macfadyen said he was satisfied that Brady had acted out of compassion rather than malice. "You brought your brother's life to an end at his own earnest and prolonged heartfelt request," he said. By the time of his death, James Brady had been reduced by a "dreadful disease" to a state of debility.

The judge went on to express hesitation about the message a lenient sentence might give, saying his duty was not only to have regard to

Wallace will not face a retrial

BY MICHAEL HORNELL

THE former army information officer Colin Wallace, whose conviction for manslaughter was quashed last week, was told yesterday that he would not face a retrial.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said in the Court of Appeal that the interests of justice would not be served if Mr Wallace, who served six years of a ten-year sentence, was put before a jury again. The court ruled last week that his conviction for the manslaughter of Jonathan Lewis, an antiques dealer, in 1980 was unsafe.

Lawyers for Mr Wallace, who claims to have been an SAS officer, said after the hearing that they would pursue the question of compensation for the years their client spent in prison. Mr Wallace, 53, claimed that he was the victim of an MI5 dirty-tricks campaign to stop him making allegations about covert security service operations in Northern Ireland.

The Crown Prosecution Service had pressed for a retrial, saying the question of who killed Mr Lewis remained unresolved and a rehearing would give Mr Wallace what he had recently demanded — a full inquiry into the case.

Weather is star of new BBC show

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

THE BBC began a series yesterday devoted to the nation's favourite topic of conversation: the thrice-weekly *Weather Show* is hosted by Bill Giles and Suzanne Charlton.

Experts will analyse phenomena such as thunderstorms, hurricanes and heat-waves. There will also be features on the lighter side of weather reporting.

Yesterday the lunchtime show, which lasts ten minutes, announced it would be following Sir Ranulph Fiennes on his Antarctic expedition. If the show is well received, it might become a daily fixture and be lengthened to half an hour.

Last month the corporation opened its new weather centre, enabling more accurate and faster forecasts to be put out.

The Weather Show

will provide competition for BSkyB's Weather Channel, which began this month.

Bill Giles said that *The Weather Show* would be topical. "If there is an important weather story developing anywhere in the world we will cover it."

Forecast, page 26
TV listings, page 51

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Gallery says funding system threatens loss of contemporary works

Arts bodies refuse grants to buy new Freud

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PORTRAIT of a nude girl was last night claimed to have exposed a major flaw in arts funding, leaving public galleries with little chance to buy contemporary masterpieces for Britain.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has turned down an application for help in buying Lucian Freud's new work, *Portrait on Grey Cover*, because it is less than 20 years old. The Arts Council rejected the appeal because the painting was not commissioned. Each funding body recommended the other.

Yesterday Edward King, director of the Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum in Kendal, Cumbria, which made the application, said: "We have been going backwards and forwards between the two for the last six weeks. Each says it is the responsibility of the other."

The gallery attracted 26,000 people to its Lucian Freud exhibition this summer. Mr King described the £780,000 nude, finished in



Lucian Freud's new *Portrait on Grey Cover*: no lottery cash for 20 years

August this year, as "a wonderful work — it is one of the most beautiful and tender of all his paintings".

The director said that without lottery support, it would

be almost impossible for any public gallery in Britain to buy such paintings.

Portrait on Grey Cover measures 55 in by 68 in. It is currently in America for an

exhibition at the Acquavella gallery of Lucien Freud's dealer in New York. The dealer is donating £150,000 to the museum's appeal, and has also extended the six-

week reserve on it by a fortnight, despite having a queue of collectors clamouring to buy it.

The National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity, has once again reacted with speed to a museum's appeal: it offered a £75,000 grant towards the purchase price.

David Barrie, the charity's director, said: "It would be absurd if Abbot Hall were denied the opportunity to purchase this outstanding work by Freud because of a bureaucratic anomaly in the Lottery-funding system. Let's hope that the funding bodies can work out a solution as time is running out fast. This case raises an extremely important issue — can masterpieces created in the last 20 years be acquired for permanent collections with lottery help? If not, the system needs to be changed."

Spokeswomen from both the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund each said their hands were tied by the rules governing the grants that they can make.

Visual arts, page 37



Doctors accuse immigration officials of discrimination as retirement plans collapse

Australia bars diabetic as burden on the state

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH citizen has been refused permission to emigrate with his family to Australia because he might impose too heavy a burden on the country's health system.

Richard Nitze, 49, a chartered engineer who is married to an Australian, is a diabetic in general good health. He is comfortably well off. The Australian High Commission in London has refused to let him emigrate because it says that his condition could deteriorate. This is despite the fact that he has a pension and can afford private schooling for his daughter and private medical insurance. An Australian private medical company had agreed to take over his Bupa cover.

According to the commission, the Australian Government says that if he suffered kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a transplant, it could cost the health system \$Aus400,000 (£300,000) and

could mean a native Australian being denied treatment.

The British Diabetic Association said that the decision amounted to discrimination and was medically and ethically wrong. Dr Ken Paterson, chairman of the association's professional advisory committee and consultant diabetes physician at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, said: "This is a problem we have met before and we have written to Australia House about it."

"It cannot be right to exclude someone who is in perfectly good health because they might develop a health problem in the future. Does that mean they exclude all smokers?"

The BDA would campaign for a diabetic who was excluded from a job or an activity because of their condition. Then a whole country excludes them. One has to wonder whether in the 1990s, that is appropriate."

Mr Nitze, of Wickham Market, Suffolk, who works for Eastern Electricity and is a newly appointed magistrate, planned to take early retirement and move to Australia in the new year so that his wife, Bronwyn, could care for her elderly parents who live there. His daughter, Stefanie, 16, already has Australian citizenship.

"My wife is distraught," Mr Nitze said. "She wanted to be near her parents. I had already paid a deposit on a private school for my daughter. Now the whole thing is a dead duck. I have been told I could appeal but it could take months or years."

In Mr Nitze's case, it came down to a difference of medical opinion, he said. The Australian doctor predicted a poorer outcome. As an employee of the Australian Government, I have to give greater weight to what the Australian doctor says."



Richard Nitze with his wife Bronwyn, who wants to care for her elderly parents, and their 16-year-old daughter Stefanie. Mother and daughter are Australians

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Mastermind title goes to vicar

MASTERMIND has been won by a vicar for the first time in its 24-year history. The Rev Dr Richard Sturch, 60, took the title yesterday with a specialist subject of the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan and a total score of 32 points.

Dr Sturch, from Islip in Oxfordshire, said he had entered because "I wanted to show that the clergy really are quite bright after all".

Dr Sturch, from Islip in Oxfordshire, beat Richard Heller from London and Gwen Kingsley from Kingswinford, West Midlands, who drew with 30 points each, and Elsie Sadek, from Blackpool, with 27.



Rev Sturch: 32 points

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Central storage of weapons 'would present criminals with remote Santa's grottoes to raid at will'

Home Office balks at turning gun clubs into arsenals

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT, AND BILL FROST

THIEFTS of firearms could increase if handgun owners are forced to keep their weapons at gun clubs rather than in their homes, according to evidence given to the Dunblane inquiry by the Home Office.

The clubs, meanwhile, fear such a move would turn them into targets for terrorists and a former police superintendent said it would be "astonishingly stupid".

Home Office officials submitted 25 potential changes to gun laws to Lord Cullen's inquiry into the school massacre. Apart from the central storage requirement, they included banning the possession and use of all guns, banning ownership of more than one handgun and banning handguns above .22 calibre. Other options included giving police wider discretion to refuse fire-

arms certificates; increasing the number of counter-signatures for certificates and requiring all applications to be countersigned by a doctor.

The doubts about central storage of firearms and ammunition could cause serious difficulties in Parliament if ministers push ahead with a ban on the possession of handguns in private homes. The Home Office warned that concentrating all legally owned guns and ammunition in a limited number of locations would have serious security implications.

Its submission said: "Shooting clubs are often in relatively remote locations. They could well become more attractive targets for theft if it became known that members had to store their guns and ammunition there. Clubs might then



Handguns stored at the Wiltshire Shooting Centre. Former members include Michael Ryan, responsible for the Hungerford massacre

move would "do nothing to avert another Dunblane".

Mr Barnard should know. Among former members at his Wiltshire Shooting Centre in Devizes was Michael Ryan, the Hungerford gun "enthusiast" who killed 16 people and wounded 14 others nine years ago. "To make gun clubs into arsenals would be an act of folly," Mr Barnard said last

night. "No matter what security measures you call for, unless there is a great deal of money spent, it is only a question of time before you are turned over."

There are estimated to be about 200,500 legally held handguns in the United Kingdom, of which around 190,000 are revolvers or automatic pistols, the remainder being

single-shot pistols used for target shooting. Many of Britain's 2,118 approved gun clubs — 247 are in Scotland — are in remote locations.

Ian McConchie, general secretary of the National Pistol Association, agreed that clubs in isolated areas "stand no chance" against determined thieves. "Even the best protected clubs get raided, it doesn't

matter what precautions you go for. We have had two recent examples where raiders bulldozed down wire fences and brick walls."

Colin Greenwood, editor of *Guns Review*, was a superintendent with West Yorkshire Police in charge of firearms training. He refuses to believe that any government could be "so mad" as to introduce a law

compelling shooters to give their weapons over to gun clubs for safe keeping. "You are just creating safe and easy targets for terrorists and other violent criminals."

"It would be astonishingly stupid to introduce such a change and it would fly in the face of all the advice offered by senior police officers and the Home Office."

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Forsyth 'would fend off poll challenge'

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

MICHAEL FORSYTH yesterday dismissed the threat from campaigners for gun control to put up a candidate against him in the approaching general election.

The Scottish Secretary's Stirling constituency, which includes Dunblane, has the second smallest Conservative majority in Scotland. Mr Forsyth said he would not be pushed into arguing for a ban on handguns. "It is my job to discuss things with colleagues and then put them to Parliament. I am not going to be pressurised." Supporters of Mr Forsyth in his constituency expressed confidence that they could fend off any challenge from the Snowdrop Petition, which this weekend threatened to put up Ann Pearson against him if the Government failed to legislate for a complete handgun ban.

At the same time, a group of Dunblane parents who lost children in the massacre called on Mr Forsyth to back an all-out ban or resign because he could not claim to be representing his constituents. Yesterday Ritchie Robertson, chairman of the local Conservatives, said the parents' stance was "grossly unfair" and that Mr Forsyth was right not to pre-empt the Cullen report on the matter, which will be published tomorrow. "Michael Forsyth is an extremely devoted, hard worker

in this constituency and people are starting to make judgments before he has had time to read the Cullen report," Mr Robertson said.

The petition was originally set up by Scottish parents who felt compelled to "do something" after the Dunblane massacre. Initially their aims and tactics were simple. They collected 700,000 signatures and presented them to Parliament in the hope popular pressure would force change.

But the campaign, named after the only flower in bloom on March 13, the date of the Dunblane massacre, has developed into a powerful mouthpiece for parents of Thomas Hamilton's victims and for anti-gun sympathisers across the country.

Mrs Pearson, 40, the mother of three who has emerged as the campaign's figurehead, has simply by asking whether protecting children or protecting people's right to shoot is more important, made politicians take notice. She addressed the Labour conference this month and reduced many delegates to tears.

Mrs Pearson, who used to live in Dunblane, said yesterday that standing for election would be just one option in a continuing campaign. She admitted that her preference would be to persuade the Labour Party to commit itself to banning handguns.



Ann Pearson, the gun control campaigner, has said she might stand for election against Michael Forsyth

Both parties face election threat

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Scottish Secretary should be concerned by the threat of campaigners for gun control to put up a candidate against him in Stirling if the Government fails to introduce a total ban on hand guns.

Michael Forsyth is vulnerable not just because of his small majority of 703 over Labour (or a notional 236 after taking account of boundary changes) but also because the strong local feelings aroused by the Dunblane massacre are about the only circumstances when a single-issue candidate might attract many votes. However, Labour as well as the Tories could be affected.

Most single-issue candidates have not done well in general elections, when the attention is on the main parties.

The most striking parallel is Nelson and Colne in 1966, where Sydney Silverman, the sitting Labour MP, faced strong opposition after he had successfully sponsored the Private Member's Bill that led to the abolition of capital punishment in 1965. An independent

standing as an anti-abolitionist probably took nearly as many votes from the Tory candidate as from Mr Silverman, whose majority increased nearly in line with the national trend.

If an anti-guns candidate stood in Stirling, he or she could draw votes from both Tory and Labour. But Mr Forsyth cannot afford any differential swing against him rather than Labour.

Among other single-issue candidates, the writer Richard Adams won 2,316 votes, 5.5 per cent, fighting the late Humphrey Atkins on an anti-hunting ticket in Spelthorne in the 1983 general election.

Anti-Brussels candidates have stood ever since Britain first applied to join the Common Market in the early 1960s — particularly against Edward Heath, who was in charge of the first negotiations and led Britain into membership. The mid-term successes of anti-Brussels groups have not been repeated in general elections.

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Blair sells Labour as new champion of family values

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

TONY BLAIR spoke yesterday of his hopes of creating a "decent society" based on traditional family values and strong communities.

He used a speech in Cape Town to declare that a Labour government would try to unite a prosperous Britain around a new social morality. He said that otherwise it would be difficult to sustain economic progress.

The Labour leader rejected claims that he was promoting neo-Conservative ideas, describing his aims as a "radical centre-left" agenda that his transformed party was well placed to pursue.

"I have no desire to return to the age of Victorian hypocrisy about sex, to women's place being only in the kitchen, to homophobia or to preaching to people about their private lives as the ill-fated back to basics campaign of the Conservatives attempted to do."

"But the absence of prejudice should not mean the absence of rules, of order, of stability. Let us construct them for today. Let the social morality be based on reason — not bigotry. But let us not delude

ourselves that we can build a society fit for our children to grow up in without making a moral judgment about the nature of that society."

He added: "This isn't a killjoy philosophy. This is enlightened self-interest. In a society in which opportunity is extended, we have greater security, our streets are safer, our young people more motivated, our ambitions better fulfilled. This is a society that is invigorating, exciting, good to live in."

Mr Blair, addressing the Commonwealth press union, spoke of his belief that encouraging greater parental responsibility would ease the burden on the welfare state caused by social decay. "Most of the children who are bad are made bad, not born bad," he said. "And we, their parents and the society we create, are what make them."

On the need for stronger communities, he said: "The language of getting has replaced the language of giving. Do-gooding has become a term of abuse, as if to help others is somehow a weakness when in truth it is a strength. He told *The Times* that his party's ideas about social contracts would be expanded upon months ahead and said it was a mark of how "skewed" the political debate had become that by raising such issues he could be accused of adopting a right-wing agenda. He denied that he was stealing Tory baggage, insisting that

We are growing immune to wrong-doing. As a society we have lost our capacity to be outraged when our elderly are treated with disrespect, or our young neglected."

He emphasised the need for parental responsibility, particularly in helping children with their education. He saw no reason for young children to be out on their own late at night. "We are examining measures to tackle this. Some have called it curfew. I call it child protection."

Nothing angered him more than accusations that he was raising an "illiberal agenda" for the nanny state. "It is about understanding that liberty is not just an exercise in a moral vacuum and we do not live just as individuals, but as part of society."

He told *The Times* that his party's ideas about social contracts would be expanded upon months ahead and said it was a mark of how "skewed" the political debate had become that by raising such issues he could be accused of adopting a right-wing agenda. He denied that he was stealing Tory baggage, insisting that

he was re-emphasising traditional Labour values of self-improvement that had been expounded by Keir Hardie and Clement Attlee.

"I think this is something that is so important for people to understand as part of new Labour. It's actually about going back to our roots and representing the concerns of

these people. If you've got the money you can buy yourself out of these social problems, if you don't you're stuck there."

The idea of new social morality was something traditional Labour supporters were "crying out" for. The Left had long been reluctant to satisfy that demand for fear of being accused of trying to switch

back the clock. "Actually you don't have to say that. You can construct a different social and moral code for today's world that takes account of changes that are good, like the liberation of women."

Referring to John Major's "new Labour, old-school tie" gibe last week about his public school education, Mr Blair said: "It's not where you come from that's important for the country. It is what you are and what you're going to do for the country. That's what the election should be about. I don't have much time either for snobbery or for inverted snobbery."

Leading article, page 21



Tony Blair saying goodbye to a child he met at the Nazareth House Aids orphanage in Cape Town

Why the Hamilton affair calls for an unfettered inquiry

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Tory party managers suffered a serious setback yesterday in their attempt to limit the scope of parliamentary inquiries into the Neil Hamilton affair — and quite right too. The Tories are correct that British public life is not particularly corrupt, or "sleazy", by international standards, but that is precisely why there now needs to be the fullest possible investigation. The Tories do themselves no favours by crying foul. They are misreading the public mood, as rightly interpreted yesterday by the Speaker. By the spirit, as much as the substance of her statement, she reinforced demands for a full inquiry.

Yesterday was a time for reality after two weeks of shadow boxing

since the collapse of the libel case against *The Guardian*. Labour and the Liberal Democrats had originally gone off on the wrong track in demanding a formal judicial inquiry. John Major was right to reject this call. Leaving aside the legal objections raised yesterday by Downing Street officials, such a tribunal could easily have taken a year or more.

It would also have been wrong for issues to do with Parliament and the conduct of MPs not to be investigated by the House's streamlined disciplinary machinery. The post-Nolan framework of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Standards and Privileges Committee was set up last year to

should be granted". In the current political climate, it would anyway have been impossible to suppress an inquiry and Mr Major has repeatedly said he will make available all relevant papers.

The real issue is the scope of the investigation. Tory party managers had been hoping to limit the inquiry to the original allegations by Mohammed Al Fayed against Mr Hamilton and related matters not considered by the old Members' Interest Committee because of the libel case. But much wider allegations have now been raised over Mr Hamilton's acceptance of payments from Ian Greer. As Donald Dewar and Archy Kirkwood, the Labour and Liberal Democrat Chief Whips,

argued yesterday in a joint statement, these matters should also be considered by Sir Gordon and the committee. The Speaker was careful not to say what the committee should examine. Her concern was more that the committee should rapidly inform the House about "the full nature and scope of any investigations which it undertakes".

The Willetts memorandum — the note written by David Willetts, the Paymaster General, when he was a whip two years ago about the members' interests inquiry — is entirely separate and does not come within Sir Gordon's current remit. The report of the Select Committee on Standards in Public Life in July 1995 that set out the powers of the

commissioner made clear that this type of privilege issue should be dealt with in the traditional way. The Speaker acts as an initial filter for complaints which are then referred by the House to the committee. Any suggestion that Sir Gordon should take on such privilege issues would make him even more of a judicial investigator.

It is in everybody's interests — Tory sources said that of the 50 people who attended the event, 49 paid £750 and only one paid £500 to sponsor it. The sponsor had no greater access to Mrs Bottomley than did any other guest. The cash receipts, none of which went to the party, merely covered the cost of the breakfast.

PETER RIDDELL

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one

The People's Channel

Tories deny selling access to minister

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR accused the Tories yesterday of soliciting £500 from businessmen and tourism chiefs in return for granting access to Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary.

In what has been called the "cash for croissants" affair, Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, told the Commons that a breakfast meeting held last week broke the Prime Minister's pledge in July that "no one can buy access to ministers" over a breakfast.

Mrs Bottomley rejected the claims, saying that the breakfast was open to anyone who could pay the £750 cover charge.

The allegation was based on a letter from Simon Coombs, Tory MP for Swindon, inviting tourism leaders to the breakfast at Bournemouth hotel during the Tory conference. Under the auspices of a group called Tories for Tourism, he asked for businessmen to sponsor the breakfast. "For £500, you would be able to discuss issues of concern to you informally over breakfast with Virginia Bottomley and members of her National Heritage team . . ."

Mr Cunningham asked Mrs Bottomley if this was "proper or doesn't it just make the statement the Prime Minister made to this House in July absolute rubbish?"

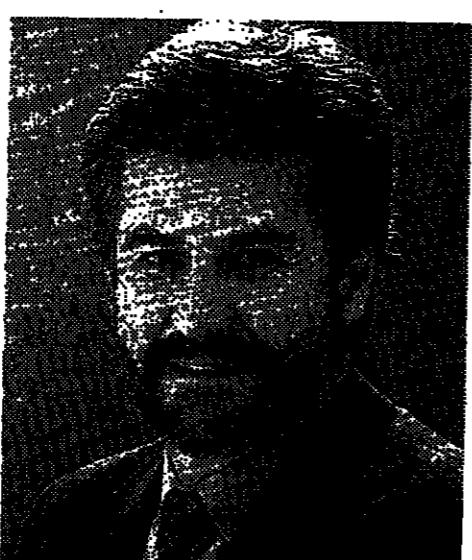
Mrs Bottomley replied: "Anybody who thought the only way to speak to me was to pay £500 would waste a great deal of money. I am available at virtually every major tourism event that takes place and I am only too happy to hear directly from people what their concerns are."

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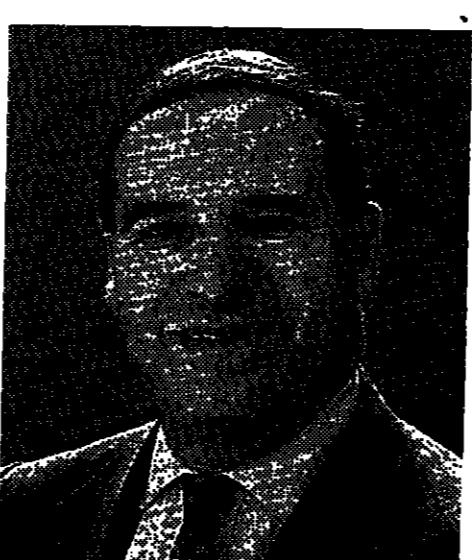
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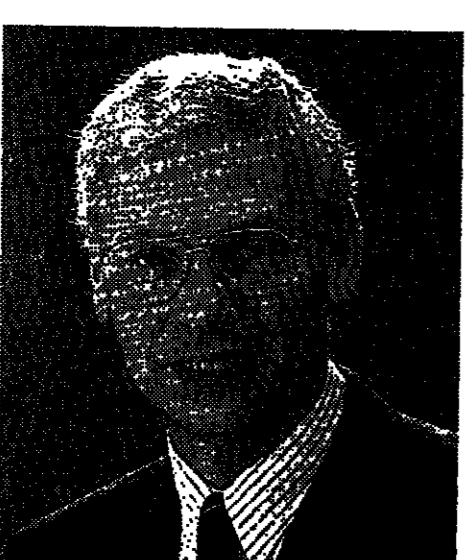
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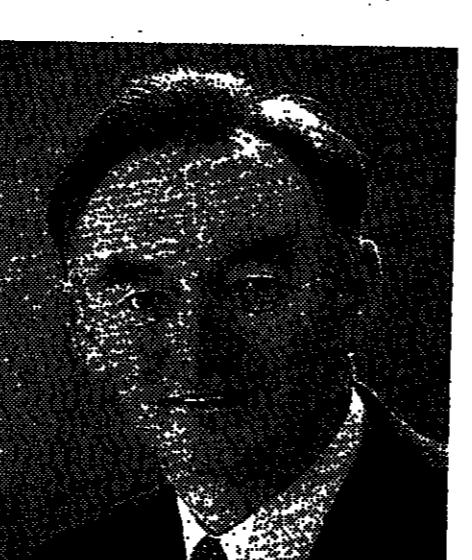
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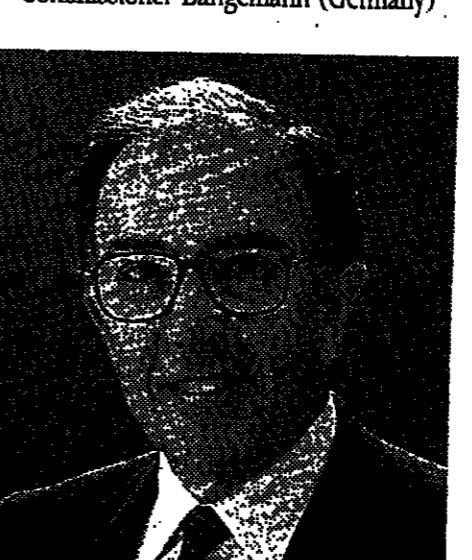
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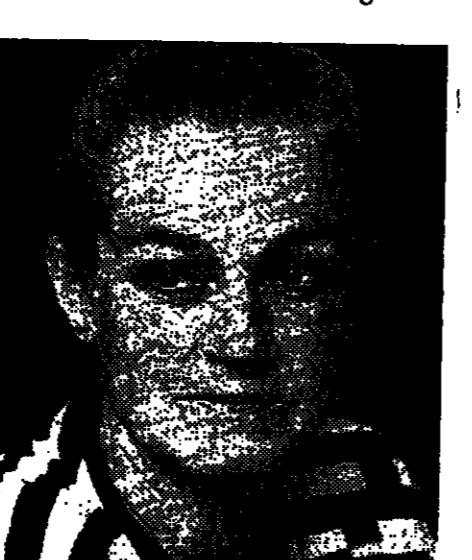
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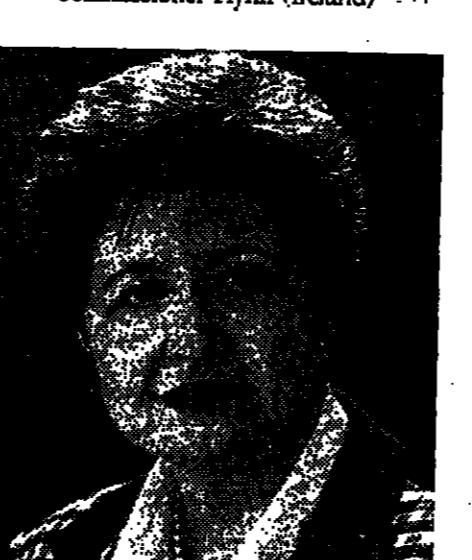
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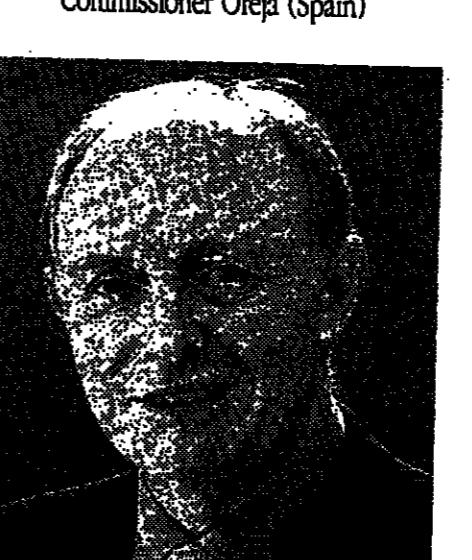
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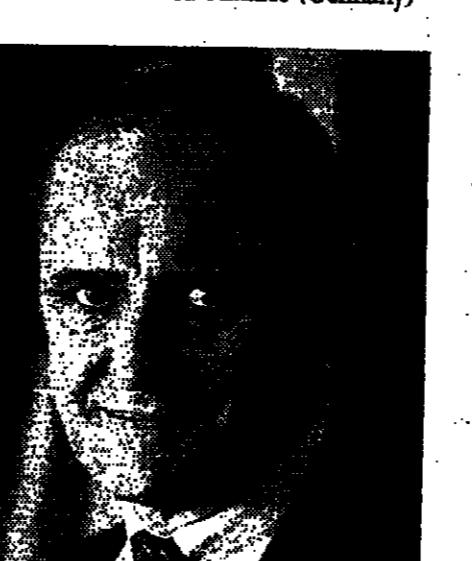
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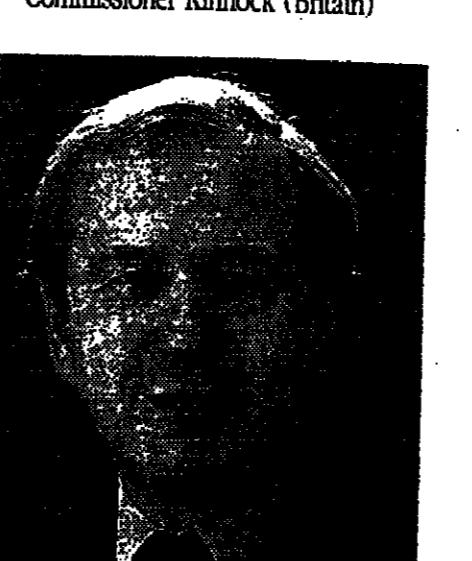
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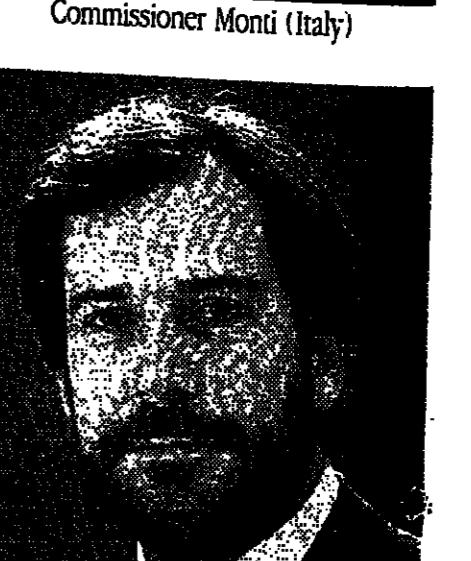
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Commissioner Liikanen (Finland)



Commissioner Papoutsis (Greece)

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

German shoe chain could reignite Hinchliffe career

By JASON NISSE

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, the Sheffield businessman whose collapsed Facia empire is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office, is using a £50 million German shoe-retailing chain to fund a possible return to the business arena.

The Facia empire, which claimed to be Britain's second-largest privately owned retailer, collapsed in

the summer and is now under the control of insolvency practitioners from three accounting firms.

However, Mr Hinchliffe managed to keep Bata Schule, the German arm of the empire, out of the hands of the receivers. The operation has 10 stores in Germany and a reported annual turnover of £50 million but recorded losses last time it filed accounts. Mr Hinchliffe bought the business in

March from International Footwear Investments, part of the Bata parent company based in Canada.

Price Waterhouse, the administrators of the shoe side of Facia, is suing Mr Hinchliffe for up to £35 million and has gained a mareva injunction freezing his UK assets. However, Bata Schule is not covered by the injunction because it is owned by a company registered outside the UK. The business is

being run by Ian Rosenblatt, an associate of Mr Hinchliffe, and he has been asked whether there is any spare money in the business to help Mr Hinchliffe to continue funding his lifestyle. Keith Oliver, a partner in Peters & Peters, lawyers acting for Mr Hinchliffe, would not comment about the status of Bata Schule but said that Mr Hinchliffe would be applying in have the mareva injunction lifted.

Facia is likely to go into liquidation in the next couple of weeks in spite of a dispute between Mr Hinchliffe and KPMG, the receivers of the company and some of its subsidiaries. KPMG has told Mr Hinchliffe and other directors of the company that its job is done and has invited them to appoint liquidators. However, the directors have not done so, in spite of the move being only a formality usually. Part of the

problem is that KPMG is concerned that Burchill Phillips, the firm that Mr Hinchliffe favours, advised the Sheffield businessman while Facia was still running.

Now KPMG is expecting one of the creditors of Facia to issue a winding-up petition, which will allow the liquidators to be appointed. They will then decide how large a payout creditors can receive from the Facia assets.

Brokers fined over pensions mis-selling

By ROBERT MILLER

A SENIOR City watchdog yesterday handed down fines totalling £405,000 on four of the UK's largest financial broking houses, for mis-selling personal pensions. The guilty parties were also ordered to pay costs of £25,000.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the watchdog for fund managers, found that the firms failed to provide many of their investors, who transferred out of occupational and company pension schemes into personal plans, with "fair and clear written statements".

Imro said that in a number of instances investors had been unable to make balanced judgments on the rival merits of the pension schemes because the information they

were provided with was flawed. Others were not given clear enough warnings about the dangers of leaving a generous company plan for the uncertainties of a personal pension. In many cases, said Imro, the record keeping and paperwork was very poor.

The largest of the fines was the £200,000 levied on Godwins, an independent financial adviser based in Farnborough, Hampshire. Willis Corroon was fined £95,000, Heath Consulting £70,000, and the Alexander Consulting Group £40,000.

The Imro action underlines the determination of City watchdogs to speed up the review of the one million personal pension plans sold since 1988. Since the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City authority, ordered the review in 1993, only a handful of individual investors have received compensation. Hundreds of thousands more may be unaware that they are entitled to redress.

The industry faces an estimated total costs and compensation bill of £4 billion.

Commenting on the Imro action, Hunter Devine, chairman of Godwins, which has identified 1,167 problem cases, said: "I believe it is unfair in that Imro made a number of regular inspection visits prior to 1994 and we were given a clean bill of health. When they came back in 1994 they were applying a new and tougher set of rules to business they had already cleared."

Last year Godwins, which

was not aware of any approach or proposals from any group and, while not directly denying the story, IMG played down the rumours.

Tim Jenkins, who heads the football side of IMG in the UK, declined to comment but admitted if IMG was to bid for United, it would severely stretch its resources.

IMG has 70 offices in 30 countries and an annual turnover of \$1 billion. If it had taken control of Marcellies, it would have paid £4 million with a commitment to invest another £14.6 million. United would cost at least 20 times that.

Cup preparation, page 48

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE latest set of encouraging figures on industrial costs and prices helped the stock market to another record close yesterday.

British producer output prices rose by a better than expected 0.4 per cent in September because of a rise in crude oil prices. Annual output price inflation, therefore, rose to 2.2 per cent from 2.0 per cent in August. However, stripping out food, drink, tobacco and petroleum, underlying output price inflation dropped from 1.3 per cent to 0.9 per cent, its lowest rate for 30 years.

Input prices—the cost of raw materials to industry—rose 0.3 per cent in the month. Against a year ago, input prices

have dropped 2.9 per cent. In August, the year-on-year figure was a 2.2 per cent fall.

On the stock market, the FT-SE 100 index closed 10.0 points higher at a record 4,038.7. The City was cheered by the price figures and argued that they should lead to lower prices on the high street.

Keith Davies, UK economist with Fournier, said: "These figures suggest that the short-term inflationary backdrop in coming months will be sufficiently favourable to provide the Chancellor with the excuse he needs (along with sterling's strength) to resist the Governor's increasing calls for higher base rates."

Separate figures published today by the British Retail Consortium appear to back up this view. The latest BRC retail sales monitor shows that sales continue to grow healthily, but the rate of growth has

decelerated. In addition, price pressures fell for the third month running. Andrew Higginson, Chairman of the BRC's economic affairs committee, said: "Fears of a runaway consumer boom are misplaced."

The BRC said that the value of retail sales rose 5.2 per cent in September against a year ago. This compared with an annual rise of 6.9 per cent in August and 6.5 per cent across the summer as a whole. The annual rate of real goods inflation fell to 2.1 per cent in September, from 3.2 per cent in June, the lowest level since early 1995.

Andrew Sentance, chief economic adviser to the BRC, warned the Chancellor against raising interest rates: "With little room for tax cuts in the Budget, it would be premature to push up interest rates to choke off a consumer recovery that has barely started."

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, yesterday insisted that membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism was not a pre-condition for joining a single currency, so placing Britain at odds with Germany and many other European Union members.

He was speaking after a meeting of European finance ministers at which the ERM question came to the fore because of Finland's weekend decision to join the system.

The Chancellor's remarks were in contrast to those of Theo Waigel, Germany's Fi-

nance Minister, who said that ERM membership was an "indispensable precondition" for joining the single currency.

That view was echoed by the finance ministers of Italy, Finland and The Netherlands.

Alexandre Lamfalussy, head of the European Monetary Institute, said Sweden, also outside the mechanism, should join the ERM and be a member for two years. Britain and Sweden have argued that they could remain outside the ERM and still fulfil the stipulation of the Maastricht treaty that currencies should respect

normal fluctuation margins for two years.

Sauli Niinisto, Finland's Finance Minister, said a decision on the single currency would be made next year. The markka slipped seamlessly into the ERM system yesterday, trading little changed from Friday's close at 2,933 to the mark.

The pound appreciated again yesterday, closing at 88.0 on its trade-weighted index compared with 87.8 on Friday.

Bundesbank's bank, page 31



Michael Doyle yesterday. The prosecution alleged that greed got the better of him

Executive denies £1m Abbey fraud

By OUR CITY STAFF

A SENIOR executive at the Abbey National went on trial at the Old Bailey yesterday accused of defrauding his employer out of more than £1 million.

Over a two-year period, Michael Doyle, said to be earning nearly £50,000 a year, allegedly approved agency invoices for work that had never been done and then took payments from the agency directors who had benefited.

Anthony Glass, QC, prosecuting, said: "He was by any standards a quite well-paid executive and it was really greed that got the better of Doyle."

Mr Doyle, now 35, of Avenue Gardens, Teddington, southwest London, was promoted to marketing services director in 1993. Mr Glass said, in the next two years he would more than double his earnings through fraud, Mr Glass alleged.

Mr Doyle denies four charges of conspiring to defraud Abbey National through unwarranted and/or excessive payments to agencies. In the dock with him are: Stuart Nicholson, 40, of Brooks Close, Nottingham, a director of Major Taylor Nicholson and Fix Focus agencies; Steven Bracken, 37, of Hall Farm Crescent, Yeatey, Surrey, a director of ASB Consulting; Guy Hewitt, 35, of Tonsley Hill, Wandsworth, south London, and Robert Taylor, 41, of Lansdown Road, Notting Hill, west London, both directors of NRG Communications; Ian Zak, 46, and Timothy Spillane, 53, directors of The Business Development Partnership. The only non-director is Mr Doyle's brother James Doyle, 32, of Fawcett Park Road, Putney, south-west London.

All deny a charge of conspiracy to defraud. The case was adjourned until today.

BA bids for troubled Air Liberté

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH AIRWAYS has made a formal bid for Air Liberté, the troubled French regional carrier. BA is offering Fr25 million (about £3 million) for the airline, put into administration in September.

Success would give BA access to seven domestic French routes, and destinations in the French West Indies, Reunion, North Africa and Portugal. The deal would complement BA's investment in TAT, the French regional carrier.

Bob Ayling, BA chief executive, said that the deal gave BA an "excellent opportunity" to secure its presence in France.

BA has asked the European Commission to block a rival bid by AOM, a French domestic competitor owned by Credit Lyonnais. BA says an AOM purchase of Air Liberté would be illegal use of state aid.

Tempus, page 30

Output prices lift shares to record

By JANET BUSH

ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

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Clarke lays down ERM line

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

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The pound appreciated again yesterday, closing at 88.0 on its trade-weighted index compared with 87.8 on Friday.

Bundesbank's bank, page 31

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Daewoo bid could bring jobs to Antrim

By OLIVER AUGUST

DAEWO, the Korean electronics company, is confident of acquiring part of Thomson, the French group, in a move that could bring up to 10,000 jobs to Northern Ireland.

This week, the French Government will announce the result of the privatisation auction for Thomson Multi Media, manufacturer of branded television sets. Daewoo has said that it will invest £1.7 billion in its European research facilities, including its plant at Antrim, if the bid is successful.

JB Chun, managing director of Daewoo Electronics Europe, insisted that the resumption of terrorist activity in Northern Ireland would not influence the group's decision to transfer more work to Antrim. "We are not worried about that. I have been involved in our operations in Northern Ireland since we began in 1989 and we have never been targeted or blackmailed."

In the auction for TMM, Daewoo is competing against Alcatel, the French consumer electronics group. Mr Chun said that he was confident of beating Alcatel because Daewoo is promising to invest heavily in TMM, while Alcatel's strategy would involve downsizing.

Alcatel has also been rumoured to be considering moving TMM's head office to America.

The combined Daewoo-Thomson group would aim to manufacture 15 million television sets annually in Europe.

Mr Chun said: "The cost of labour as a percentage of total cost has gone down to 5 per cent. So it is cheaper to build the televisions here than to build them in Korea and then bring them to Europe."

While the western European electronics market is stable, Daewoo wants to use the manufacturing base in France and Northern Ireland as a springboard for sales in Eastern Europe.



John Goodwin, left, chairman of Highland Distilleries, and Brian Ivory, chief executive, sampling products of the whisky company

Confusion marks start of Gas referral to MMC

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prices battle between British Gas and the industry regulator began its formal referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday amid confusion over the terms of reference.

Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Gas Supply, appeared to back down over earlier threats that if the company refused her last price proposals for TransCo, which could be extended to include British Gas's exploration and production arm.

British Gas believes that a possible extension to the refer-

ence would widen the inquiry beyond the question of pricing controls.

While sticking with her last valuation of TransCo, a crucial formula for British Gas's revenues, and not explicitly widening the terms of reference, yesterday's referral nevertheless emphasised that the regulator was empowered to broaden the reference. This could be extended to include British Gas's exploration and production arm.

British Gas believes that a

possible extension to the refer-

ence would not have been mentioned had it not been in the regulator's mind to do so. A spokesman for Ofgas said that the terms would only be widened if the MMC asked for such a move.

The referral to the MMC has been triggered by British Gas's rejection of pricing proposals for TransCo, which would have cut domestic bills by £28 a year. The company has claimed that the harsher pricing controls mean that it would have to halve its workforce of 20,000.

Philip Rogerson, Deputy Chairman of British Gas, said that the uncertainty over the terms of the reference added to the regulatory uncertainty in the industry.

He said: "We've had 15 to 16 months of discussion over this review and we are not clear about what will be presented to the MMC. This doesn't make for good regulatory practice."

The MMC investigation is expected to take six months.

This week Ofgas is expected to deliver its final pricing proposals for the supply side of British Gas's business, which cover its pricing to domestic customers.

Ex-director sues for £1.28m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A FORMER director of Littlewoods is claiming £1.28 million from the company's pension trust for unpaid pension benefits.

Prolid Guha, who was fired two years ago for alleged gross misconduct, is already suing Littlewoods for wrongful dismissal. Littlewoods has

launched a counter claim. The dismissal of Mr Guha, who was an international director and deputy chief executive, helped to bring to light a power struggle within the company between family members and management.

The struggle escalated as the National Lottery took foot-

ball pools' business and culminated last year in a failed £1.1 million takeover bid by N Brown, the catalogue company, and Iceland, the frozen food retailer.

The company declined to comment on Mr Guha's action against the Littlewoods Pensions Trust.

Ms Spottiswoode set out her ground in the referral to the MMC by saying the present controls that govern TransCo's revenues were against the public interest. She said that they allowed the company to set higher prices than necessary, provided inappropriate incentives, failed to encourage competition in some areas, and did not allow sufficient monitoring of TransCo's spending.

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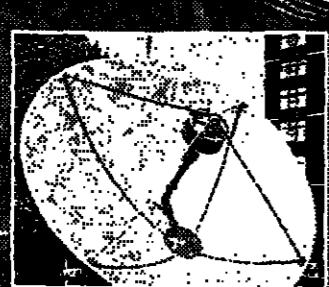
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كذا من الأصل

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

ADM agrees \$100m fines for price fixing

ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND, the American agricultural products company, has agreed to plead guilty to federal charges related to price fixing and to pay \$100 million in fines. ADM said that the agreement, which is subject to court approval, settles the US Justice Department's investigation of price fixing of feed additive lysine and citric acid, and closes a third inquiry, related to high-fructose corn syrup.

ADM said that it will pay a fine of \$70 million relating to lysine, an additive for animal feed, and \$30 million in connection with citric acid, used in various foods and drinks. ADM said the agreement is a global resolution of all matters between Justice Department and ADM. It is not known whether the Justice Department plans to charge executives.

Water stake 'not for sale'

WASTE MANAGEMENT International, whose US parent owns 20 per cent of Wessex Water, yesterday stood by the holding amid reports that disposal may be imminent. The company, which reported a 7.9 per cent increase in third-quarter pre-tax profits to £42.8 million, said the position was unchanged from a statement in the summer that the stake was not about to be sold. Speculation has surrounded the WMX Technologies holding since WMX appointed a chief executive, Philip Rooney, who indicated that non-core operations could be sold. Wessex is bidding for South West Water.

Rocky road for Fiat

SHARES of Fiat, the Italian car manufacturer, yesterday fell to their lowest price for almost three years amid a lack of consumer confidence in its domestic market and worries about the impact on exports from the high value of the lira. The shares fell below the 4,000 lire (about £1.50) level to close down 1.49 per cent at 3,964 lire, their lowest since December 1993. Italy's car market has struggled to recover from recession and sales look set to fall below the levels of 1993. Consumer confidence has been further unsettled by worries over a new Eurotax, part of Italy's tough 1997 financial budget package.

French telecoms plan

GENERALE DES EAUX, the French diversified utility, hopes British Telecom will join it and Mannesmann, of Germany, to run the telecommunications operations of SNCF, the state-owned railway company. Generale des Eaux made a formal bid for the operations yesterday with its German partner, Bouygues, the construction to media group, has tabled a rival offer in partnership with Stet, of Italy. France plans to deregulate the telecommunications regime in 1998, breaking the domestic monopoly of state-owned France Telecom to comply with European Union rules.

Racal in MoD talks

THE Ministry of Defence has entered into contract negotiations with Racal Radar Defence Systems as prime contractor for the radar and mission system upgrade of the Royal Navy's Sea King helicopter, for early warning application. This closely follows the choice of Racal's Searchwater 2000 maritime reconnaissance radar for the Royal Air Force's replacement for its Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. Recent selections are expected to result in orders worth more than £150 million to Racal once contract negotiations have been completed.

Gas pipeline go-ahead

CONSTRUCTION began yesterday on the Interconnector gas pipeline that will link Britain with continental Europe. The £460 million project will carry up to 20 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year from the terminal at Bacton, Norfolk, to Zeebrugge. About 8.5 billion cubic metres a year will flow in the opposite direction. Partners in the Interconnector consortium are British Gas, BP, National Power, EDF Aquitaine of France, Russia's Gazprom, Distrigas of Belgium, Ruhrgas of Germany and Amerada Hess of America.

Chrysler sets record

CHRYSLER Corp, the American automotive company, reported a 92 per cent rise in profit for the third quarter as a surge in sales of cars, trucks and minivans boosted results to record levels. The company earned \$680 million, compared with profits of \$354 million. Revenues climbed to \$14.4 billion, a third-quarter record and an increase of \$2.4 billion, or 20 per cent, over the same period last year. Chrysler repurchased \$452 million of its common stock in the quarter. The company initiated a \$2 billion common stock buyback for 1996, and expects to repurchase an additional \$1 billion in 1997.

Spanish sell-off

THE Spanish Government proposes to relinquish its outstanding holdings in Telefonica, the telecommunications company, and Argentaria, the financial services company, next year. Josep Pique, the Industry Minister, said yesterday. The Spanish State has about a 25 per cent stake in Argentaria and about 21 per cent of Telefonica. Señor Pique said the Government also plans to sell its remaining 10 per cent stake in Repsol, the oil company, next spring. The state is also considering the sale of part of its near-67 per cent holding in Empresa Nacional de Electricidad.

Tax plea to Chancellor

TAX RELIEF on Tessa schemes should be diverted to subsidise long-term care plans by making contributions tax deductible, the Association of Consulting Actuaries advises the Chancellor. It also wants greater flexibility for personal pensions and additional voluntary contributions to be diverted to financing care. Taxation on pensions needs to be simplified if more employers are not to opt out of final salary schemes, the association argues in its pre-Budget submission. It wants to restore the 1993 cut in the dividend tax that could be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue by pension funds.

Oil spill payouts could total £20m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

CLAIMS for damage to the fishing and tourism industries after the sinking of the Sea Empress oil tanker off Milford Haven are likely to total £20 million, it emerged yesterday.

Loss adjusters acting for fishermen and workers in shelfish processing said the oil spill had been "disastrous" for the industry. Hoteliers, owners and caravan sites would be making smaller claims because the summer season had been better than expected, said a spokesman for MPC, one of the leading loss adjusters.

Hoteliers affected by the pollution disaster at the beginning of the year met oil industry officials yesterday to

discuss compensation for their summer losses. They claim figures from the Wales tourist board show demand for hotel and guest house accommodation was 5 per cent down in August, the fifth successive month of decline. Some businesses have reportedly suffered a 20 per cent downturn.

But MPC said a higher number of day-trippers and families on weekend breaks meant that the summer had not been as bad as first anticipated. Claims may be reduced by up to 10 per cent if the body responsible for compensation, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, decides poor weather kept away tourists.

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Sixty names seek talks over demands

By IOLA SMITH

THE Welsh Development Agency has appointed Tom Myerscough, chairman of Courtaulds Japan, to help to boost exports of Welsh automotive components to Japan.

Automotive components is the largest manufacturing sector in Wales. The sector's 150 companies employ 20,000 people and generate £1.8 billion of sales a year. The agency believes that a further £6.2 million could be generated annually by sales to Japan.

Dr Myerscough has already led initiatives to export British automotive components and textiles to Japan under the Department of Trade and Industry's Action Japan export drive.

Names in Canada are likely to feature in the latest demands for payment, expected within the next ten days.

Tony Goodall, the former Lloyd's underwriter, and Robin Kingsley, chairman of the Lime Street Agency, are among Lloyd's personalities to feature in the first batch of 240 writs issued last week. They are being pursued for £1.67 million and £1.26 million

Sally Noel, who faces a demand for nearly £300,000, said she would continue to resist calls for payment. She said: "They are pulling them [the figures] out of the sky. No other business would be allowed to get away with it." Mrs Noel claims she was fraudulently recruited on to two high-risk Lloyd's syndicates. She publicly cut up her 34-page writ at the weekend.

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Australia S	2.09	1.93
Austria Sch	17.99	16.49
Belgium Fr	52.78	48.46
Canada S	2.241	2.081
China Cny	0.658	0.714
Denmark Kr	9.93	9.79
Finland Mak	7.79	7.14
France Fr	8.57	7.92
Greece Dr	2.57	2.38
Hong Kong S	12.95	10.95
Iceland Pr	1.15	1.05
Ireland Pr	1.03	0.95
Italy Lira	5.42	4.77
Japan Yen	180.40	174.40
Malta	0.611	0.558
New Zealand \$	2.882	2.632
Norway Kr	2.41</	

□ Worries over whisky sales □ Purge in wake of Peter Young affair □ Labour's election odds fall

Grain of hope in overseas markets

□ PREMIUM Scotch whisky is at first glance one of those curious markets — children's safety equipment is one of the few others to spring to mind — where high prices may attract the consumer rather than deter a purchase. This is one reason the industry has avoided the sort of cost-conscious rationalisation that has befallen other industries and managed to remain true to its antique tartan image.

One of the few incursions from the real world was the cold-blooded sweep on Macallan-Glenlivet by Highland Distilleries in July and its inevitable chaser, the sacking of almost half the former's Speyside workforce. What was interesting was the timing of Highland's move. The whisky industry had endured three winters of price wars, Christmas 1994 having been particularly awful.

While the best whiskies have always maintained their distance from the common herd, the cuts among cheaper brands had an unexpected effect. The entire pack shuffled back in price; aristocratic single malts used to commanding £20 or more suffered the indignity of being chopped out by the big supermarkets at 30 quid for two.

By last summer the worst of the damage was over, some single-digit price rises had been hammered through, and the

industry had decided to go into this pre-Christmas selling season with a united front. Yesterday's figures from Highland Distillers suggest this may not be easy. The industry has seen a 4 per cent fall in sales in Britain over the past year, suggesting the gradual decline in whisky drinking over the past couple of decades is accelerating. It may be that the earlier price cuts slowed the natural decline, and volume

is now being sacrificed in return for higher prices. But it would not take much for one producer to break ranks and start the downward spiral again — to the customer's benefit and the industry's ruin.

Highland has a poor record for diversifying; it is not too many years since a daft venture into mushroom farming and a particularly hideous scotch-and-orange concoction for the youth market. The company is now producing its own gin, as yet an unproven quantity, and a special Famous Grouse brand for the Far East. It now exports one bottle of Famous Grouse, its main seller, for each one that stays in this country. The in-

dustry's salvation is going to be in markets such as India, China and South America, where whisky is often drunk, horror or horrors, with Coke or another mixer.

Consumers seem strangely unconcerned whether the label features a sprig of heather or a tam-o'-shanter, either. They may be young, a market Highland and its rivals find it hard to attract on their home turf.

Some of the international drinks groups have already latched on to this and directed their advertising accordingly.

The smaller producers will ultimately have to do the same.

Don't spare the axe at MGAM

□ FOR a while it seemed we were heading for yet another messy City cover-up. The pattern is familiar: hundreds of millions go missing from the vaults of Megabank, and after weeks of trawling through the details, a far-reaching purge is announced. The man in charge of ordering paperclips is fired, the

gu. Already identified are the compliance director — fair enough, as the internal policeman he must attract some blame — and two of Mr Young's immediate bosses. As yet unconfirmed is the departure of Keith Percy, the chief executive and therefore the man at the top of the food chain at MGAM.

Mr Percy is an amiable and popular man, but his name must be on that list. He might go off his own accord, rather than work under his replacement, it is suggested. But to omit him would make a mockery of this summer's Securities and Futures Authority guidelines, put out after Barings and the survival of the two men at the top, Peter Baring and Andrew Tuckey, with their respective fortunes intact. These say a senior executive's ignorance of wrong-doing by subordinates is not enough to absolve him or her from blame.

Now Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, owner of the fund manager, must decide how far up the managerial chain the axe should

going right to the top and no handsome pay-offs or "consultancy" deals either, would seem to confirm this doctrine.

City dusts off the Tories

□ HOPE is at hand for Conservative Central Office. Each month, Merrill Lynch asks fund managers responsible for more than £1,000 billion which party they think will have the most seats in the next Parliament. Each month so far this year somewhere between 92 and 99 per cent have given their unconditional vote to Labour. At the beginning, Merrill confesses, only one person in their sample reckoned the Tories would still hang on after the election.

All this has suddenly changed. A poll of 70 of these financial *luminaries* taken after Labour's conference and during that of the Tories found eight fund managers bucking another Tory plurality. Labour's odds-on dominance is down to 59 per cent. But does this matter any more? In 1992, something like an

even chance of a Labour victory produced sweaty palpitations on City exchanges. In part, Labour is now favourite because it has few non-Tory financial policies.

Only utility stocks, pariahs ahead of Labour's posturing on "windfall" tax, have on the whole become less unpopular among the *Nerds* of the investment world than over the spring and summer. They are still far from being flavour of the month.

Being within infection range of the Bank of England, fund managers are more worried about inflation. They think short-term interest rates will have to go up, albeit modestly, after the election. Like a new boss charging anything possible to last year's accounts, new Labour is more likely to raise rates instantly and blame the Tories. New Labour, new orthodoxy.

Smokers welcome

□ A PRO-SMOKING action group has provided a travel guide that includes a list of tobacco-friendly health clubs — and a restaurant where you are encouraged to light up, which doesn't say much for the cooking. Next off the presses is the William Hill nap of three-legged horses, Douglas Hogg on care-free beef farming — and Peter Young's selection of the world's finest unlisted securities.

Sluggish markets hold back Premier

BY PAUL DURMAN

PREMIER Farnell, the electronic components distributor formed from a £1.85 billion takeover, is still being held back by sluggish markets and can see no sign of any short-term revival.

The company, now burdened with £410 million of debt, had slower growth in sales this year. Although the demand for computer chips remains strong, prices in the group's volume distribution business have fallen because of overcapacity.

These problems and £7.7 million of reorganisation costs restricted Premier Farnell to first-half pre-tax profits of £56.1 million. The original

Farnell business increased its operating profits from £32.9 million to £36 million on sales nearly 10 per cent higher at £277.3 million. The US-based Premier Industrial was included only from its acquisition in April, but made an opening contribution to operating profits of £33.9 million.

Farnell's US business has been moved to Chicago, the home of Premier's Newark Electronics, while Newark's European arm has relocated to Leeds. These changes and the elimination of head office duplication have cost about 150 jobs.

Copies of Farnell's catalogue of products have been sent out to Newark's customers and have prompted a promising level of new orders. Newark's catalogue is being sent to Farnell's customers for the first time this week.

The main impact from the market pressures was felt at Farnell Electronic Services, the volume component distributor. Management in Germany and Italy, where the group made lower profits, has been changed. Farnell increased sales and profits in the UK in spite of lower gross margins.

Farnell Components, the catalogue arm, continued to improve sales and profits although at a slower rate. Catalogue sales represent just over half the group's annual sales of almost £1.1 billion.

CPC, which distributes spares and accessories for consumer electronic goods, produced "excellent" results, beating its profit targets.

Prism, the only quoted company to specialise in rail transport, is on the shortlist to bid for four more regional franchises — CrossCountry Trains: Merseyrail Electrics; Anglia Railway Train Services; and West Anglia Great Northern Railway.

Prism indicated a profit projection for the year to March of £8 million.

Tempus, page 30

Prism on the track of £12m

PRISM RAIL, the consortium formed to bid for the newly privatised rail franchises, launched a £12.4 million rights issue yesterday as it began operating two new routes (Christine Buckley writes).

Prism, which already operates LTS Rail, now runs SW&W Railway, covering the western, southern and London Midland regions of British Rail, and Cardiff Railways. Its rights issue — at 240p on an 11 for 26 basis — was mounted to fund capital requirements for the franchises.

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Merseyrail Electrics; Anglia Railway Train Services; and West Anglia Great Northern Railway.

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Jardinerie seeks growth in float

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JARDINERIE Interiors Group, which hires, sells and maintains indoor plants for businesses, hopes to raise up to £4.3 million when it joins the Alternative Investment Market at the end of this month.

Most of money will be used to buy Tropical Plants Display and Office Landscaping. The acquisitions will more than double the group's turnover and will make it the second largest player in the UK market, behind Remontek.

William Braid, chief executive, said that the acquisitions are agreed and are dependent only on the listing. The two businesses will cost a little less than £4 million. The money

raised from the flotation will also be used to redeem around £300,000 worth of preference shares held by 3i, the venture capital group.

The shares will be issued at 114p and the market capitalisation will be £10.2 million.

The group — including the two acquisitions yet to be completed — turned over about £6.13 million and made a profit of £1.14 million in the year to September 30. On its own, Jardinerie Interiors had turnover of £2.9 million. Mr Braid said that he expects turnover this year to top £6.5 million.

Trading in the company's shares is due to begin on October 31.

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U.S. Weather Regions	
Climatic Center	
July 19-21	Heavy showers; daytime high temperatures rising to the mid-80s, nighttime low near 70°.
July 22-24	Sunny; daytime high in the 80s, sunblocks.
July 25-26	Heavy showers; daytime highs in the 80s.
July 27-30	Sunny and warm; daytime highs near 90°.
July 31-Aug 1	Light showers; daytime highs in mid-80s.
Aug 2-4	Clear and warm; daytime highs rising to mid-90s, nighttime lows rising to mid-70s.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares reach record high as factory prices rise

INVESTORS on both sides of the Atlantic were on a roll again yesterday with share prices hitting new heights in London and New York.

The better than expected factory gate prices provided a new lease of life to London, allowing the FTSE 100 index to claw back an early fall of 11 points.

A strong opening rise on Wall Street that saw the Dow Jones average climb back above the 6,000 level enabled London to finish just below its best of the day, 10.6 points stronger at a closing high of 4,038.7. That compares with the all-time high of 4,046.8 earlier this month.

But with the US bond market closed for the Columbus Day celebrations, turnover generally slipped to a low ebb. By the close of business in London less than 600 million shares had changed hands.

It seems even the big boys are taking an increasingly bullish view of prospects for investors with the likes of BZW, London's biggest securities house, lifting its year-end forecast for the FTSE 100.

BZW has raised its estimate from 3,750 to 3,900 with 4,300 already pencilled in for 1997. BZW says that the equity market is now beginning to look attractive after the recent sharp rise in the gilt market.

British Gas fell 4p to 181.2p after the industry regulator referred the price control of British Gas and its TransCo subsidiary to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It follows British Gas's rejection of price controls.

Early attention focused on the financial sector where shares of the insurance companies were being chased higher. Speculative buying pushed Commercial Union up 9.3p to a new high of 677.2p amid suggestions that the group was in talks with ABB Amro, the Dutch bank, about a possible merger.

Others to go better included General Accident 4.3p to 743.1p and Guardian Royal Exchange 2p to 274.2p, while among the life assurance companies Lloyds Abbey, the subject of a minority bid from Lloyds TSB, rose 6p to 646p, Britannia 3p to 729p, and United Friendly 'B' 6p to 877.1p.

Blenheim, the exhibitions group, stumbled 10.2p to 473.1p as the expected bid from United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*, failed to materialise. Weekend reports suggested Reed Elsevier had decided against making a bid for Blenheim. Last week, VNU, the Dutch publisher, paid 500p a share for a 14.9 per cent stake in Blenheim.

Takeover favourite Manchester United received a further boost with the shares soaring 49p to 559p on the

back of weekend reports that IMG, the sports marketing group headed by Mark McCormack, was also interested in making a bid.

City speculators became excited last week by a report in *The Times* that the league and cup double champions might soon find themselves on the receiving end of bids from Granada up 9p to 880p, and Whibread, 1.2p firmer at 697p. Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, has attempted to play the bid story down.

A recent visit by brokers continued to benefit Seuricor, up 10.2p to 290p. Last week's visit also coincided with a "buy" recommendation from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker. Henderson points out that on turnover of £1.2 billion the group is still only making profits of £43 million. Any steps taken to strengthen margins will benefit shareholders.

Highland Distilleries has paid a high price for acquiring Macallan as half-year figures revealed. Write-offs totalling £3 million relating to the subsequent reorganisation took their toll on profits, which slumped from £42.9 million to £12.5 million.

In the futures pit the December series of the long gilt rose 1.1p to £101.16 as the number of contracts completed fell well short of recent levels. A total of 22,000 had been completed by the close.

In longer Treasury 8 per cent 2015 futures £1.32 to £101.32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick lower at 104.11.

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The best performances were seen in index-linked issues still reflecting on Friday's unexpected half-point jump in the inflation numbers.

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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARY**HSBC's Lord of the Rings**

Lunchtime. Bournemouth, the retirement centre of Britain's south coast. Inside the town's Burger King Chris Butler, the assistant manager, is serving fries and hamburgers, taking phone calls, making sure table cleaners such as teenager Sarah Edmunds keep going, keeping cleaning.

Prompted, no doubt, by the fast-food firm's slogan offering genuine customer choice - "You want it - you got it!" - a young mother in a Calvin Klein T-shirt asks him if she could warm a bottle of milk for her baby. She is refused. The baby carries on crying.

As counter staff rush to keep up with the demand for burgers and milk shakes, Mr Butler - early 20s, with deep lines under his eyes - is encouraging one teenage hamburger flipper by throwing an arm across his shoulders, while shouting for another: "Where? Why isn't he here? I want him serving here now!"

Lunchtime. St Petersburg - not the one in Russia but a retirement centre on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida, US. Inside the Burger King, opposite the town's Tyrone Square shopping mall, Rick Wood, the manager, is marshalling his team of burger jockeys, who are noticeably all much older than their Bournemouth counterparts, with the jobs filled by middle-aged black women and white women in their 60s.

The work, and the noise, is international. "What, honey?" "That's a Double Whopper". "There you go - \$3.99". "OK! you're all set!". "Fries here". "That's double", the inevitable "Thank you, have a good day", and "You want it - you got it!"

Once, Conservative ministers used to relish the comparison between Britain and America over jobs, holding out the vision of the UK as a mini-US: flexible labour markets, service-sector dominance, Burger King pacing Burger King across the pond.

Not any more. In spite of the sensitivity of the issue in Tory circles, Europe is now the favoured benchmark with Gillian Shephard, Employment and Education Secretary, in particular bashing the UK drum across the Channel, as she did in Bournemouth last week at the party conference: "We attract more inward investment, more jobs than any other EU country, because of our flexible and deregulated labour market."

In America, since Bill Clinton took office in 1992, 10 million jobs have been created. As Al Gore, his campaign running-mate, emphasised in a vice-presidential debate televised live across America last week from St Petersburg: "We want the focus to be on millions more jobs - and we are confident it is going to happen."

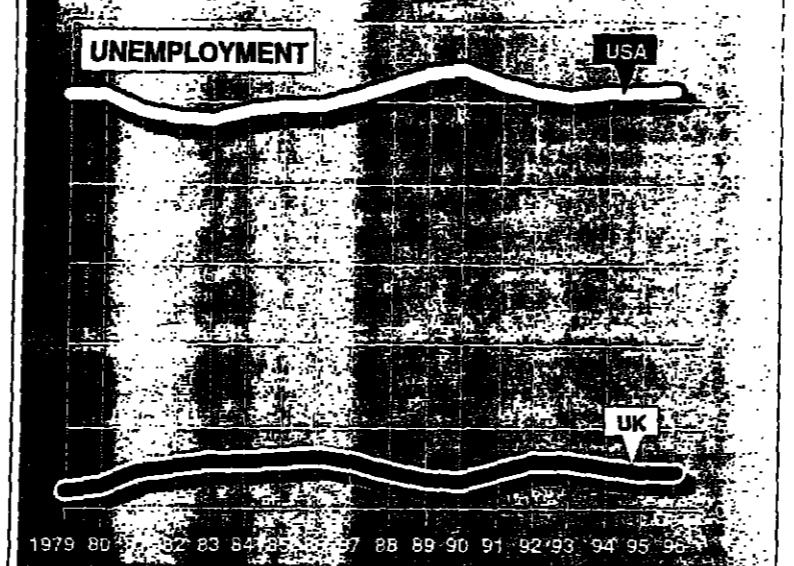
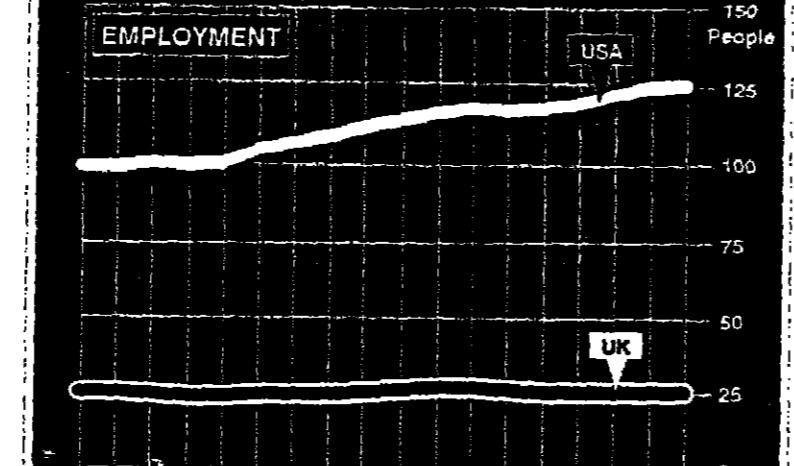
Whatever its claims for Britain's economic performance under the Conservatives, the Government simply can't match that - or anything anywhere like it. Compared to the EU, the UK's job record - especially on unemployment - is good. But not over the long-term compared to the US.

Tomorrow, Conservative ministers will be hoping to announce a further fall in UK unemployment after last month's 15,600 drop. They will certainly be hoping that the UK doesn't emulate the US's most recent job performance ten days ago - instead of a forecasted further rise of 170,000 jobs, monthly employment figures revealed

**Tory claims on
employment
compare badly
with US exploits,
says Philip Bassett**

Picture: David McNew/Agence France Presse/PA

US SERVES THE JOBLESS BETTER



a surprise overall 40,000 fall for the first time since January, with manufacturing particularly hard-hit, losing 57,000 jobs. Unemployment rose from 5.1 to 5.2 per cent.

But the markets liked it, viewing it as an indicator of the economy slowing after perhaps over-buoyant growth. Even Robert Reich, the US Labour Secretary, welcomed it: "We had to have a slight deceleration in the economic locomotive to make it sustainable."

In other ways, Britain is still drawing from America. Labour's welfare-to-work programme is rooted in Bill Clinton's "tough love" welfare-to-work initiative, and Mrs Shephard's new expansion of her Project Work scheme from pilots in Hull and Kent to a much larger test of 100,000 people across the country is taking Tory labour market policy ever closer to the harder end of US welfare schemes, in spite of real reservations in Conservative ranks.

The UK-US link used to be much more comfortable for the Tories. In the Reagan-Bush years, entrepreneurial America encapsulated the kind of deregulated labour market that ideologically the Conservatives wanted to see in Britain. But the election of Bill Clinton upset that particular applecart: operationally, the US job market is still highly deregulated, especially compared to Europe - but labour market intervention and regulation

have grown under the Clinton administration, with new training schemes, welfare reform, pro-union legislation and, in particular, an increase in the national minimum wage. And jobs have still gone up.

Since 1979, when the Tories came to power, Britain has, overall, been poor at job creation - mainly because the two deep recessions of the early 1980s and 1990s were good at job destruction (though in the States, new research by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology demonstrates that links between business cycles and job creation faded in the 1980s and beyond).

From 1979 to 1996, UK employment grew overall by just 300,000, or 1.2 per cent. Over the same period, employment across all EU countries rose by 7.5 per cent, across all OECD member states by 24 per cent, and in the US by 28 per cent, with America putting on more than 27 million jobs.

Britain's unemployment performance overall is not much better. Throughout the lifetime of the Conservative Government, unemployment rose and fell, but has ended up 1.1 million higher than it was, double the number when it came to power. This 100 per cent rise is broadly in line with the OECD average, and well behind the 166 per cent increase for the EU as a whole. But it falls well behind the much

more limited increase in US unemployment, which has risen 20 per cent since 1979. The record has been better in recent times. On unemployment, since the 1992 general election and Clinton's election later the same year, the number without work in America has fallen by 2.3 million, and by well over \$10,000 in the UK - 570,000 fewer than its last peak in December 1992. At the same time, unemployment has gone up by 2 million across the OECD as a whole, and by as much as 3.1 million in the EU.

With a 21 per cent fall, Britain's unemployment record since 1992 far outstrips the rise in joblessness of 6.5 per cent for the OECD, and as much as 19 per cent for the US, and is not too far short of the 24 per cent drop in the US.

But, on employment, Britain's job-creation record is a poor 0.4 per cent, and even that is arguably since it depends on what figures are used to measure the increase. By contrast, although jobs across the EU have fallen since 1992, with a 2.4 million or 1.6 per cent drop, OECD countries overall have created 15.4 million jobs, up 4 per cent, mainly pushed by Japan and the emerging economies, and the US has seen a 0.6 per cent increase.

What has happened in Britain, as opposed to major competitors like the US, is that more people have simply left the labour market - became "economically inactive", as the statisticians like to call it. Since 1992, Britain's labour force has shrunk - down by more than 600,000, or 2.1 per cent, at a time when the US labour force has risen by \$5.5 million, or 4.5 per cent, and even the EU has seen a 0.5 per cent increase in its workforce.

Economists regard Britain's declining workforce total as potentially threatening, with implications for its output and future growth that are concerning policymakers.

In the US, right-wing business leaders opposed to Clinton's re-election are scathing about the administration's claims over jobs, arguing that the job growth since 1992 is nothing to do with the federal government and, if anything, may have been limited by it. They maintain that it is largely, if not wholly, due to a few key businesses restoring corporate America by tough, downsizing decisions that have led - and are still leading - to big layoffs, but which have the effect of keeping threatened companies alive.

Whatever the reason, job growth during the Clinton years has been startling, far outpacing the much smaller degree of employment growth in Britain, although unemployment performances in the UK and US have been similar. That makes for parallels that are much more uncomfortable for UK ministers than they used to be.

Meanwhile, back at Burger King in St Petersburg, four enterprising Florida teenagers are creating work for themselves by capitalising on the endless stream of cars in and out of the parking lot - offering to wash customers' cars while they're dining, and, in the process, getting in good training for the Tampa Bay Miss Wet T-Shirt contest, to the admiring stares of teenage boys sucking milkshakes.

At Burger King in Bournemouth, such entrepreneurship looks a little different. Instead, Chris Butler and his crew use the front windows of the restaurant to try to drum up staff. Headlined in a neat twist on the company's slogan "You got it - we want it!", a poster says: "Whether you are young or old, male or female, looking for full-time or part-time work, we may have a job for you."

With unemployment in the area below the national average, this particular lunchtime there are no obvious takers to join the UK's more limited version of the US's flexible labour market.

BUSINESS LETTERS**Companies need to find a way to provide for the 'uninsurables'**

From Mr Rocco Segreti
Sir, I read with great interest that an underclass of uninsurable drivers is emerging in Britain [car insurance underclass being frozen out, says AA October 9].

Our research painted a number of possible scenarios for the insurance industry in the future. In one, which we call "Big Brother", every citizen has only the amount and type of insurance deemed appropriate by the Government. In fact, consumers may not even deal directly with insurance at all. Changes in insurance coverage could simply "happen" when consumers move, acquire new property, experience a major life cycle change or file a claim. This world may have evolved from the emergence of a collective social consciousness or it may be a consequence of an initiative designed to avoid social unrest in a world in which the "have-nots" are growing at alarming rates. However, the net effect will be the same - there will be little left for insurance companies. It is therefore imperative that they find a way to provide proactively for the "uninsurables".

Insurance companies need to respond to new markets if they are not to be frozen out. One way to reduce costs and risk is to minimise expenses and maximise effectiveness of delivery. Developing new IT systems, outsourcing, third party administration and data management are helping the proactive companies to ensure that they can operate effectively in ever changing market conditions.

Yours faithfully,
ROCCO SEGRETI
(General Manager),
Insurance IBM EMEA,
New Square, Bedford Lakes,
Feltham, Middlesex.

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Yours faithfully,
P.E. WOOD,
6 Norman Street,
Brighton.

Help must be given to British Gas

From Mr D. W. Taylor

Sir. Although having a good "whinge" about their troubles with British Gas may make your correspondents feel better, it will not solve them. Neither will engaging a private plumber, who is never going to be available 365 days of the year. Only doctors and British Gas will come out on Christmas Day!

Before privatisation, British Gas had a reputation as high as Marks & Spencer for service and quality. However, since then, British Gas has had its income slashed by the regulator. It has had to make experienced servicemen re-

taken out when it was a monopoly.

Your correspondents will find it effective if they write to their MP and ask him to sort it out, with a copy to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Ms Spomswood.

Yours faithfully,

D. W. TAYLOR,
3 Sherwood Avenue,
Ruislip, Middlesex.

Bill confusion

From Mr P. E. Wood

Sir. Like Mr Taylor (Business Letters, October 4), I too received a British Gas account after a delay of nine days. In my case, however, with no reason given, I have been credited with the full (net) amount of the previous bill which itself included a £2 plus VAT.

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As well as this credit on the current account I have been charged with both the previous and present quarter's combined consumption without any allowance in respect of prompt payment. I am thus £4 plus VAT out of pocket.

How widespread this practice is I do not know, but British Gas has told me that I will be compensated. I wait expectantly!

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Cheshire Cat grin after export award

Rebecca Arnison, a clothing designer from Great Sutton, Cheshire, has won this year's Livewire Export Challenge. She was awarded £1,000 and a five-day trip to a European destination of her choice. Her company, Cheshire Cat, designs and makes coats and dresses for girls aged between two and eight. She was turning customers away because of a lack of experience in exporting. But exports now account for 40 per cent of sales. The Livewire Export Challenge, backed by Shell with support from Bass and Holiday Inns, helps businesses to export for the first time.

Euro initiative

A government campaign to make UK firms aware of fast-growing business opportunities in Central Europe starts in January. It will concentrate on five industrial sectors: automotive, healthcare, consumer goods and retail, IT and agricultural business. Government Offices and Business Links will co-ordinate the campaign.

NatWest offer

NatWest Bank is offering two new concessions to start-up businesses. The bank has teamed up with Business Names Registration to offer a 50 per cent discount on the cost of checking and registering the name and trademark of the new business. NatWest is also offering 10 per cent off business insurance.

Good counsel

The Institute of Business Counselors is holding its national conference at the London Heathrow Park Hotel on November 2. The cost is £125. Telephone 01423 879208.

Holiday inspiration has flag-maker flying high

BY VERONICA HEATH

GEOFF WALKER sold a successful chain of hairdressing salons and treated himself to a holiday in America, where he saw a picture of some car flags.

"Those flags set me thinking," he says. "I thought our football fans might like them. I had time on my hands so I brought some samples home and had some Newcastle United and Manchester United flags to attach to car windows made up. The supporters loved them. So then I tried banners. After that the business took off."

Corporate Flags UK started manufacturing in small warehouses in the Tyne area in the early 1990s. Mr Walker opened an office in the village of Longhorsley in Northumberland. In an old pub: "In the beginning I hired a consultant flag-maker and got in touch with the Flag Institute, both of whom have been very helpful," he says. "We learnt how to get into applique flag-making, which is basically building up a pattern. For generations flags have been hand-made; the process remains much the same as it has been for hundreds of years."

The Northumberland Training Council made an £8,000 grant and Mr Walker put in £4,000. The business has also received grants from the Department of Trade and Industry for plant and machinery.

Now plans are afoot to get everything under one roof in a new factory, with state-of-the-art printing equipment to achieve high-quality volume production. Mr Walker's two sons have joined him and Corporate Flags UK currently



Flag-wavers: Geoff Walker, left, with his sons Simon and Geoffrey who have joined the business

has six employees and two outworkers. It has a licence to sell flags to Premiership clubs and to supply Benetton and Jordan, the motor racing companies, the Formula One Association and the driver Johnny Herbert.

The Euro 96 football competition this summer brought a major contract and sales have been made to Wembley, Sky TV, the FA and the Volvo and Vauxhall touring car teams, as well as an impressive list of corporate clients who use flags as a mobile form of advertising.

Italy and Spain are keen flagwavers but Mr Walker feels

that there is a huge untapped market in other countries for flags and banners and he is developing an internet site. "We do flags, flag accessories, pennants, table flags, golf pin flags and bubs, bannisters, bunting and flagpoles," he says. "We are now selling to Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Scandinavia and Singapore. Flags are one of the world's oldest forms of identification used for immediate recognition and signalling. With their heraldic associations they have been used by all nations' standard-bearers from sporting occasions to declarations of war. They carry an

authority distinguished from any other form of advertising."

When Northumberland County Council was created more than 100 years ago it chose a red and gold pattern for a county flag and Corporate Flags UK is now making these for sale to the public. The purchaser gets a leaflet describing the flag's history and protocol. The design is based on one of the oldest known flags in Britain, originally described by the Venerable Bede as the colours of St Oswald, the 7th-century King of Northumbria.

Corporate Flags is on 01670 78847.

Paperwork overload heaps pressure on bosses and suppliers

BY BRIAN COLLETT

PAPERWORK and running a business take up so much of the small company owner's time that suppliers are suffering too.

"These owners are extremely busy and they don't have support teams," said Philip Lowery, event director of EPS Events, a west London exhibition and survey company. "We are all seeing reports about the number of hours these people work."

Small business bosses often cannot find the time to read all their mail, which could contain useful offers and information.

"Therefore, people selling to small and medium-sized businesses find it difficult," said Mr Lowery.

The finding follows an EPS survey of the plans, hopes and fears of businesses. Lack of time and slow paying emerged as their biggest worries.

Nearly half the businesses interviewed complained about slow payers but Mr Lowery believed that the popular solution of charging interest would drive away customers.

A welcome change was the intention by 42 per cent of the sample to increase training budgets. "That was very positive," said Mr Lowery. "I don't think people thought that was happening."

Even more of the sample — 62 per cent — planned new products and services in the next 12 months, which the researchers saw as signs of growth and entrepreneurship.

Surprisingly, 44 per cent said that they would be on the Internet within six months.

At the same time, EPS has found that manufacturers and distributors of information technology are beginning to realise the economic importance of small and medium-sized companies.

Smaller businesses are increasing workforces and expanding, while large companies are laying off staff. As a result, some IT companies are developing aggressive marketing to win orders from small customers.

These customers, however, still feel badly served generally by the information technology sector, says the report.

□ EPS is staging an IT exhibition at Wembley from April 8 to 10, geared to small business customers. Inquiries: 0701 0709 901.

Missing out on cover for key people

FOUR out of ten small businesses do not have key person cover, the insurance that pays out when a key employee dies, or becomes incapacitated (Brian Collett writes). Yet a survey has found that nearly two thirds of the uninsured businesses admit that losing a key person could be disastrous. Furthermore, the businesses most worried about the problem were the least likely to carry the insurance.

Researchers for the survey, commissioned by Barclays Life, the bank's life and pensions arm, interviewed nearly 2,000 companies and said the figures suggested that up to 100,000 businesses could need the insurance.

The survey also found that lack of cover was more common in newer companies. The most vulnerable were people-based organisations, such as employment agencies, and those reliant on the skills of one individual — for example, the creative director of an advertising agency. Surprisingly, 40 per cent of uninsured businesses did not know the insurance existed.

Tony Owen, protection marketing manager at Barclays Life, said: "Often profit plummets when a key person dies, or is too ill to work."

Small firms want a bigger say on local issues

BY RODNEY HOBSON

SMALL businesses feel that they do not have sufficient say in local issues, according to a survey by the British Chambers of Commerce. And the annoyance that small firms feel at being ignored by local authorities is increased by the high business rates they are forced to pay.

Ian Peters, deputy director-

general of the BCC, says that consultation is needed, not only because business rates contribute a significant proportion of local authority revenue, but also because businesses are key members of the local community.

Dr Peters says: "It is essential that the business community has a voice and is listened to. Consultation with business should not just be when their financial resources

are sought — it should be on all issues that affect the environment in which they work."

A BOC survey sponsored by Alex Lawrie, the business finance provider, found that a high proportion of businesses would support earmarking a percentage of the rates they pay for projects that directly benefit the business community.

Typical projects would include

highway maintenance, waste collection and crime prevention measures. The principle of earmarking cash for such projects is supported by nine out of ten Scottish companies.

Many businesses were unaware that the uniform business rate in England and Wales is controlled by the Government, and that the local authority is merely the collecting agency.

The need to be given a say at local level is the main reason why businesses decide to join their chamber of commerce, the survey found.

Half of the businesses sampled indicated that if the firm had any concerns over a local issue, it would first approach the chamber of commerce, rather than contact a local councillor or the constituency MP.

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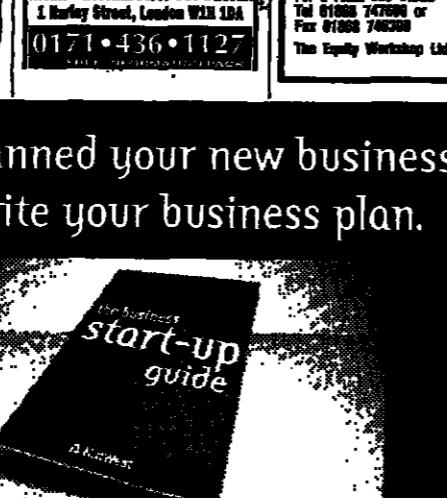
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Shares dip on profits warning at Philips

BY OLIVER AUGUST

PHILIPS, Europe's biggest consumer electronics producer, yesterday shocked markets by announcing that expected profit improvements had not materialised. The shares fell 5.5 per cent on the Amsterdam bourse on the news.

The profits warning gave rise to speculation that a fresh restructuring would be unveiled with third-quarter results on October 24. In July, the company said that it was cutting 6,000 jobs over the next 18 months as part of a restructuring that aimed to place work in countries where costs were lower.

A Philips spokesman yesterday said that it would be necessary to accelerate planned actions for recovery but declined to elaborate. "It's quite clearly an early warning," he said. "We felt that we

Detectors contract for Graseby

GRASEBY, the electronic instruments group, has won £22 million three-year contract from the Swiss defence procurement agency (Oliver August writes). The Swiss will receive chemical agent monitors (CAM) from 1998, subject to Parliamentary approval.

Graseby has spent six years developing the portable hand-held CAM in conjunction with the Swiss. The company is also developing an explosives detector to counter the terrorist threat to aviation. Graseby shares rose 2½ p to 129½ p.

Tempas, page 30



Geoff Halstead, left, and Stephen Knight, financial director, saw profits edge ahead

Mixed fortunes at Halstead

BY MARTIN BARROW

PROFITS at James Halstead Group, the commercial flooring and leisure products company, edged 3 per cent higher to £10.63 million in the year to June 30, helped by a reduction in raw material prices and the first contributions from new ventures.

But there was margin erosion at the Conway Products

subsidiary, supplier of security cabins, trailers and trailer tents, which incurred a loss for the year. The company blamed "inefficiencies and poor cost control" and said it has made management changes to restore margins.

Halstead's Driza-Bone outdoor clothing business also suffered mixed fortunes, with

strong sales in its home market of Australia, but weak demand in Britain, America, Germany and France.

The company, whose managing director is Geoff Halstead, is paying a final dividend of 6p a share to lift the total by 8.8 per cent to 9.5p. Earnings were 23.5p a share (22.75p).

Eurotunnel takes a twin track

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE management of the car and passenger rail services running through the Channel Tunnel is to be split. Eurotunnel announced yesterday.

The Anglo-French company, which last week announced details of its crucial financial restructuring, said it

would be reorganised into two businesses, Le Shuttle and Railway Services.

Le Shuttle includes the running of the trains that carry cars and lorries on a shuttle service between Folkestone and Calais.

Railway Services will serve Eurostar, the high-speed trains travelling between

London, Paris and Brussels, run by the national rail companies of Belgium and France and London & Continental Railways, the UK consortium.

Bill Dix, previously chief commercial officer, is appointed managing director of Le Shuttle, while James Evans continues as director of Railway Services.

They will report to Patrick Ponsolle, Eurotunnel's executive chairman, and Georges-Christian Chazot, managing director. Robert Malpas, the non-executive British co-chair-

Chartwell bid values Archer at £35m

BY NOEL FLUNG

CHARTWELL GROUP, the American insurance and reinsurance group, has made a cash offer of 92.5p per share to Archer Group Holdings, the quoted Lloyd's agency, valuing it at £35 million.

The offer price represents a hefty premium of 53.4 per cent to 61.5p, the closing price on October 3, the last dealing day before the cash offer disclosure was announced.

So far Chartwell has secured 52.3 per cent of Archer's issued share capital, including its own holding and in irrevocable commitments. It estimated that Archer's pre-tax profit for the year ended September 30 would not be less than £3 million.

Bryan Kellert, Archer's chairman, said: "Chartwell would provide capital for its syndicates, enabling Archer to plan for longer-term development with confidence."

Richard Cole, chairman and chief executive of Chartwell, described the move as a logical and natural extension of its existing activities in the London market.

"Archer would provide geographic diversification and direct access to the Lloyd's marketplace for future growth," Mr Cole said.

Archer, with 4 per cent of Lloyd's underwriting capacity for 1996, operates 11 Lloyd's syndicates with capacity of \$420 million for the 1996 year of account.

The company bounced back to profit last year after two years of losses and reported a pre-tax profit of £599,000.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Daily Mail acquires Southex Exhibitions

THE Daily Mail & General Trust, the UK publishing and exhibitions company, yesterday completed the acquisition of Southex Exhibitions, the trade and consumer exhibition division of Canada's Southam Inc, for £57.6 million (£56.2 million). Southex, based in Toronto, is a show management company, producing more than 90 shows in 35 cities. In 1995, the company earned pre-tax profits of £56.4 million on turnover of £41.7 million. Net assets were £510,000 at the year-end.

In the current year, turnover is expected to rise to about £53 million, due to acquisitions. Daily Mail said the investment in Southex was complimentary to that of its existing DMG Exhibition Group in Britain, whose shows include the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition.

Burford goes shopping

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the acquisitive property company, has bought a 179,000 sq ft shop and office complex in Glasgow from private clients of Hoddle Stobbs for £15.55 million. Retailers with outlets at the Savoy Centre include Next, New Look and In-Shops, who generate about £950,000 a year in rents. Gross rental income from the centre totals £1.17 million. The company said that more than 60,000 sq ft of a total of 91,400 sq ft of offices is let under a peppercorn rent.

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Allied London changes

ALLIED LONDON PROPERTIES, the property development and investment company, said that 30 per cent of its portfolio changed in the year to June 30. The company raised £45 million through disposals, and spent £36 million on property.

Since the year end it has sold property worth £32.5 million and spent £14.9 million on acquisitions. Pre-tax profits were £9.16 million (£11.06 million) and earnings fell to 6.5p a share (9.5p). The total dividend is maintained at 4p, with a 2.82p final.

Australian banks merge

ADVANCE BANK and St George Bank, two of Australia's largest regional banks, are to merge in a deal valued at \$2.65 billion (about £1.33 billion). The merger appears to be an attempt by the two Sydney banks to stave off a takeover by one of the big four Australian banks, which are not allowed to merge with each other and have been eyeing smaller banks.

Bank of Melbourne shares rose more than 4 per cent in early trading on speculation that it could be the next bid target.

RM nets Virgin deal

RM, a supplier of information technology to schools, has teamed up with Virgin Net, part of Richard Branson's Virgin Group, to provide an education service to homes via the Internet. RM, which also supplies IT to colleges and universities, said it had signed an exclusive agreement with Virgin Net. Virgin, which has designed an Internet access service for the UK consumer, aims to launch in November. It plans to make the RM service available early next year.

Bombardier test flight

THE Bombardier Global Express, the new long-range business jet, took to the air for the first time in Toronto at the weekend. The aircraft flew for two hours and 46 minutes, reaching an altitude of 11,000 ft and a speed of 210 knots. Testing continues at Bombardier's flight test centre in Wichita, Kansas. Aircraft deliveries are scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 1997, with certification in the second quarter of 1998.

THE TIMES

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TEMPAS, page 30

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■ THEATRE 1

Hedda Beeby and Tish Francis celebrate a £4 million facelift for their Oxford Playhouse



■ THEATRE 2

From revised Restoration to uncompromising modern: Dublin's Festival had something for all



■ THEATRE 3

A talented cast can do little to remedy the National's staging of Jonson's *The Alchemist*



■ THEATRE 4

... while in Derby the prolific John Godber offers unusually dark fare in *Gym and Tonic*

THEATRE: Curtain up on a lavishly reborn Playhouse; plus reviews from Dublin, London and Derby

Oxford does the honours

The Oxford Playhouse, less than 60 years old, is not one of those venerable old theatres worshipped by conservationists. Its distinction lies instead in the cast of luminaries who have trodden its stage, from Sybil Thorndike, John Gielgud, Rachel Kempson and Dirk Bogarde to Ronnie Barker, Shirley Williams and Nigel Lawson (witnesses to its close ties with the university).

Tomorrow it will reopen after a summer closure for a £4 million facelift. Seeing inside the new Playhouse a few weeks ago was intriguing; it gave few clues as to how it will look after refurbishment. Wires dangled from ceilings like roots, great brackets which will have new seats bolted to them dotted the otherwise deserted expanse of floor, walls were half-painted, and other than the decorators, electricians and joiners crawling over it, there were few of the essential people.

What was enlightening was the workmen's response to the two women showing me round, Hedda Beeby and Tish Francis, the joint theatre directors. The decorators and joiners were keen to show them how this particular fitting would work, how that door will open, how the box office counter has a wheelchair-high level.

The Playhouse reopens with the world premiere of a new piece by the Siobhan Davies Dance Company, *Affections* — the kind of show many thought would topple the Francis-Beeby regime, but which has instead revealed a new audience. There will be a proper gala opening on October 27 with Prunella Scales and Alan Bennett to raise a large part of the last £50,000 of the £4 million spent on the place. In fact, the Playhouse will be the first theatre restored with lottery money, £25 million of it.

It is nearly seven years since Beeby and Francis were appointed to run the traditional home of the Oxford University Drama Society and the Oxford Stage Company. The theatre had been closed by safety officers in 1987. They were privately warned by Oxonians that their adventurous pro-

gramming plans would soon close the place again.

The celebrity-studded inaugural gala for the then safe theatre in April 1991 featured a play called *Same Old Moon* and a bomb scare. To cancel or not to cancel? After investigating, the Oxford police finally said: "Your decision, ma'am." But the technicians on the production included a certain Edward Windsor, whose detective was formerly with the anti-terrorist squad and knew enough about coded warnings to recommend that the show should go on.

That kind of "luck" seems to have ridden with them. In August the creation of a fire escape revealed that rusting joists in the roof were crum-

pling the brick. The reopening could literally have brought the house down, but the management had prudently put aside a contingency fund which covered the £15,000 costs of repair.

"I think this is the best-run set-up I have ever been involved with," said Sir Claus Moser, the theatre's chairman, and he has been involved with a few, including the Civil Service and the Royal Opera House.

The Playhouse had been the university's property, and although the four leases were given to the theatre five years ago, the assumption that Gown rather than Town holds sway has taken a while to dispel. "We chose to ignore it rather than fight it," Beeby said.

Funding is shared between the university, the county and the city, although not equally.

"We've tried to appeal to new audiences and keep the old ones," Beeby said. The proof of the pudding is in the average 70 per cent box offices,

included in the new season brochure are Opera Factory's *Magic Flute*, Griff Rhys Jones in Ben Travers' *Plunder* (pre-West End), and no fewer than three warnings about the offence potential of certain scenes in Lindsay Kemp's *Variété*, V-Tol Dance Company's *By Force of Fantasy* and the OUDS's student production of *Sobol's Cherto*.

The new Playhouse will be bright, with comfortable seats, luxurious leg room, somewhere convivial to eat and drink, and a hospitality room for the sponsors — "why shouldn't they have one for what they do for us?" said Francis. And backstage, the dressing rooms will have designer flooring, to make the performers feel as valued as the customers out front.

SIMON TAIT

Under wraps: Hedda Beeby (left) and Tish Francis on stage at the Oxford Playhouse

We've tried to appeal to new audiences



Fool's gold from debased metal

The Alchemist
Olivier

WHEN Benedict Nightingale reviewed this production at its Birmingham premiere it is a co-production mounted by the National Theatre and the Birmingham Rep, he expressed the hope that some trimming and tinkering would be done before it arrived in London. Perhaps Bill Alexander has done this, but the result of his labours is not a likeable show, nor even a comic one.

Ben Jonson is not an easy dramatist to bring into life on the modern stage, and this play, which seems a straightforward piece at first glance, almost always defies the efforts of director and cast, brimful of talent though they may be. Much happens, but every scrap of it

The string of fools who arrive at Face's door while his master is away want to be rich or lucky in love, which in Jacobean days meant finding a rich woman. They are induced to part with their gold and sent away unsatisfied, returning later with more gold only to suffer the same disappointment, often compounded with humiliation. It's One Damn Sting After Another.

The fractious opening scene gets the play off to a bad start, from which it seldom recovers. Simon Callow (Face) and Tim Pigott-Smith (Subtle, the alchemist) call each other endless rude names, but there is no vocal excitement of a quality to make one listen to what is being said. Matters get marginally better thereafter, although what comedy the play contains is found in single lines, even single phrases, and not in the few set-piece speeches.

The play appears to be set in some post-apocalyptic future, presumably dystopic because William Dudley's set

gives us an armoured house capable of closing in upon itself and shuffling snugly inside a painted alchemical sign. Metal stairs soar upwards and out of sight, giving the stage the look of one of the dead Underground stations in *Neverwhere's* London Below.

Uncertain futures give a licence to superstition, which is no doubt the thinking here, but the nature of the

requests and the rogues' preposterous language roots the escapades so firmly in the past that contemporary parallels become too far-fetched to be taken seriously.

Callow gulls his victims in English, Welsh and Scottish accents; Josie Lawrence (a raunchy Doll Common) adds Irish with her twittering Fairy Queen. A few of the crises generate the odd laugh, but after Alexander's fine work at Birmingham this play is a disappointment.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DONALD COOPER



Josie Lawrence, Simon Callow and Tim Pigott-Smith in *The Alchemist*

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WHAT sort of man goes foraging for a bottle of wine and reappears saying: "Bacchus returns?" A twerp in a John Godber play, that's who. Jeremy Kingston writes. One of his unhappy husbands for whom life hasn't turned out as he expected, whose wife feels unwanted — small wonder in this case, since she is a nasal and apologetic whiner — and who can't understand his children. But Godber's Don in

Gym and Tonic read English at university and Godber needs to remind us of this, bringing in literary allusions, mostly Shakespearean, in the way that some people lard their conversation with snatches of a foreign tongue.

Don is stressed, and he and wife Shirley, whose frequently mentioned "dislike" at being called "love" he ignores, come to a health hydro to relax. What you expect to happen to him there duly happens. He cannot believe he has to take off his clothes for the massage, almost faints for lack of a Cornish pasty, and will not survive the night without alcohol. Needless to say, this hypochondriac chump has not made love to Shirley for two years, but Godber's preferred style of dramatic writing has advanced beyond the need to tack on a happy ending. Even the memory of art, music and

hydro helpers, never reached Row M.

Aidan Healy's *Pow!*, directed in the Studio by Penny Cinciewicz for Paines Plough, tells of a once promising boxer trying for a comeback. As always in plays about boxing, the bout is fixed; just as inevitably, the combat doesn't develop as planned.

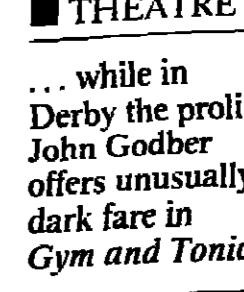
Healy's work is still raw, using the irritating mannerism of sentences interrupted after two words and creating a ghastly woman manager (Helen Anderson) too hysterically sarcastic to be credible. But the scenes in the ring are well imagined: Wil Johnson's bruised Ray tempts his opponent with an exposed eye before jabbing a punch, all the while delivering a commentary of unspoken thoughts. Norman Roberts's performance as the cheekier, collier younger Ray is excellent.

Gym and Tonic! Pow!
Derby Playhouse

—

literature doesn't solve this hero's problems, suggesting that the superficial optimism so grating in Godber's past work could, just possibly, be giving ground to darker, more truthful perceptions.

He also introduces a character new in his work, an elderly widow, extremely rich, dithering between eccentricity and shrewd wisdom. Marcia Warren delivers her throwaway lines with an easy panache. James Hornby presumably does what Godber wants him to do as Don. Gilly Tompkins' voice grates on the ear but at least is audible, whereas much of what is uttered by Justine Glenton, playing two



Desire on the fringe
Luke Clancy rounds up the best of the Dublin Theatre Festival

Any production in this year's official Dublin Theatre Festival will have to battle hard to match the strange energies unleashed in the fringe show, *Streetcar*. In a cramped gallery stairwell, this grotesque, Marvel-comics retelling of Tennessee Williams's drama of sex, lies and public transportation put a match to the capital's annual theatre binge.

Director Annie Ryan described her production as a commedia dell'arte version of the play, but the manic influences of Jim Carrey's *Mask* and Jack Nicholson's grimacing Joker were equally apparent. Using macabre face paint, and stylised rhythmic choreography, Ryan harnessed to incendiary effect the diverse talents of Gary Cooke as Stanley, a swaggering hairball of nastiness, Liz Kuti, as Stella, madly trying to grin her way to satisfaction, Andrew Bennet, monosyllabicly devastating as Mitch, and Tony Flynn in travesty as the glassy-eyed Blanche. Her bodice stuffed with chinzy dreams and camp self-deception.

Closest so far to attaining the left-field power of *Streetcar* was Starving Artist's *Road Movie* (Peacock). With just a good lighting plot, a chair and a bangle, Mark Pinkosh unfurled a narrative journey across America that took in bump and grind in a New York back room, tears at Washington's Vietnam monument and cable television nirvana in a Mojave motel. Pinkosh shuffled lithely through a range of characters — including a sassy con-dispensing diva who would give *Streetcar's* Stella a run for her money — to deliver a continent in 90 gleaming, sad and defiant minutes.

In his *Stella By Starlight* (The Gate), Bernard Farrell is back in familiar territory. Dermot (Tom Hickey) is a failed Dublin apparatchik, who, after losing his job, uproots his wife, Stella (Marion O'Dwyer) and daughter, Tara (Janet Moran) and takes to the Wicklow Hills. Now he divides his time between D.I.Y., his PC and rubbing up against his enormous telescope while torturing his wife and daughter with his twittering inadequacy.

On the night a comet is due to plunge into Venus, Dermot's home is visited by his nemesis, golf-obsessed Paul (Stephen Brennan) and his wayward wife, Geraldine (Gemma Craven). In the small hours, the simmering rivalry between the two men finally bubbles up, and as the recriminations fly, anyone still up is treated to a welter of clichés about the Japanese and their golf obsession, and a skimpy portrait of a working-class Dubliner that seems to cross the line into racism.

Desperate Optimists' latest devised performance, *Indulgence*, had the wordy drama turned out to be, in sprightly neo-Restoration language. Murphy attacks with relish the task of putting painstakingly marshalled words into the mouths of the biblically put-upon Vicar (Jim Norton), his wife (Deirdre Donnelly), his family, his dilettante tormentor, Mr Thornhill (Frank McCusker) and his stultifyingly self-righteous saviour (David Henly).

Murphy avoids being too knowing about the antique morals that keep this little world of britches and periwigs in check, and the play is impressively gentle and understanding of fratty and delusion. Mason's direction coaxes a series of enjoyable performances, notably from Norton, but at times becomes over-fastidious.

The production could easily have succeeded in a much simpler form. Designer Francis O'Connor's backdrop, a flowing cloudy sky projected onto a wall of little swinging doors, was fussy more often than it was useful. At times the plethora of mantelpieces and doorways were flown in left the Abbey stage feeling like a frantic runway, when in reality Murphy's sortie into the 18th century required no air support.

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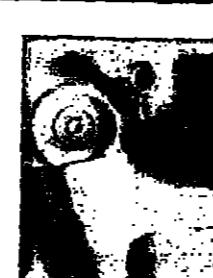
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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996



■ VISUAL ART 1
Beyond the fair ladies: the National Gallery focuses on Rubens's stunning landscapes



■ VISUAL ART 2
... while Jane Simpson's London show casts domestic objects in a new, sculptural light

THE TIMES ARTS

■ RECORDING
Herbert von Karajan gets the 'Building a Library' accolade for *Parsifal*



■ TOMORROW
Ian Hart, the fast-rising actor from Liverpool, takes stock of his sudden fame

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on a neglected side of Rubens; plus a Pop pioneer's prints and London shows

A genius for fleshing out landscapes

On a visit to the Prado some years ago I found myself in a grand room filled with dimpled Rubens nudes at their fleshiest. A Spanish guide entered, leading a posse of tourists, and announced: "Here, ladies and gentlemen, is the master of the chubby women." His audience sniggered, as he knew they would. And I soon realised, from their reactions in particular paintings, that the joke prevented them from seeing Rubens's work as anything more than a gross celebration of female bodies with a weight problem.

Poor Rubens has been dogged by similar remarks wherever his art is displayed, and they caricature the achievements of an outstanding painter. Now the National Gallery has hit on an excellent way of letting us see him anew. By devoting itself to his landscapes alone, this hugely stimulating show concentrates on Rubens's capacious imagination at its most personal, direct and innovative.

Not that he started out with landscape as his overriding goal. Rubens took a surprisingly long time to mature as an artist, and his formidable ambitions focused on mastering the human figure. He first appears in Christopher Brown's exhibition as a willing collaborator with Paul Brill, whose large *Landscape with Psyche* was probably painted in Rome and then sent to Rubens in Antwerp. He simply added the eagle and the figure in the foreground — a diminutive woman dwarfed by the drama of Brill's craggy hillside and waterfall. Five years later, Rubens was still prepared to add the naked figures of Adam and Eve to an elaborate landscape painted by Jan Breughel the Elder. By then, however, he had already decided to explore his own growing fascination with the countryside.

A consummate draughtsman, Rubens always made a point of going outdoors and making preparatory studies, even of mundane weeds and undergrowth. His early *Pond with Cows and Milkmaids* is enlivened by a rapturous involvement with willows, tree-stumps and the reeds sprouting so thickly at the water's edge. Both women and animals seem incidental, confined to a corner and stiffly defined in comparison with the vigour of



Milkmaids with Cattle in a Landscape ("The Farm at Laeken"): "Rubens integrated figures, animals and countryside in a boisterous hymn to the natural world"

the vegetation around them. They could almost have been added by another artist, but within a couple of years Rubens proved himself triumphantly able to integrate figures, animals and countryside in a boisterous hymn to the abundance of the natural world.

Milkmaids with Cattle in a Landscape, more commonly known as *The Farm at Laeken*, places the two young peasant

women at the very centre of the foreground. Rubens delights in their comeliness, and lets a cornucopia of fruit spill out of the basket on one milkmaid's head. But a nearby wheelbarrow is heaped with an even more luxuriant harvest of vegetables, and their richness is at one with the fertility of the land all around.

We can sense Rubens's growing confidence when, around 1620, he

painted a lyrical panel of a shepherd with his flock and then, soon afterwards, incorporated much of its composition in a grander, more fluent and ambitious painting usually known as *The Watering Place*. The smaller of the two paintings is impressive enough, juxtaposing the calm of shepherd and animals with the intense drama generated by the sun's glare on the other side. But *The Watering Place* is even more

so. Peasants, cows, horses and sheep are fused with their heavily foliated locale to a far more convincing extent. The tousled young man riding his mount into the river typifies the insolence of Rubens himself, who orchestrates the tangled trees rearing from the rocks above with swaggering aplomb. He knows, by now, exactly how to alternate between areas of knotted complexity and places

where one or two trunks are allowed to stand in near-silhouette, against a sky alive with an apprehension of nature's inherent dynamism. The countryside is never seen as a static arena, it seems to shift and grow as our eyes travel across the painting's agitated surface.

Nor did he content himself with

animating the foreground, and leaving more distant stretches to

settle into quiescence. It is no accident that he returned, time and again, to the subject of a wagon fording a stream. For Rubens likewise insisted on crossing over, in his imagination, from one part of the landscape to another in his agile determination to project himself into the depths of each perpetually receding scene.

During his last bout of landscape painting, in the mid-1630s, he entered into an even more supple, rapt and energetic engagement with the rural world. His purchase of Het Steen, a substantial residence set in an ample estate, ignited an even keener desire to consummate a love affair with countryside he could now claim truly as his own. Some of the smallest panels he painted then, like the exalted oil study of willows set ablaze by the sinking sun beyond, are so direct and freely brushed that they could easily have been executed on the spot.

The climax of his infatuation can be found in two prodigious panels painted, almost certainly as a pair, around 1636. One, the fiery brushed *Landscape with a Rainbow*, cannot be lent by the Wallace Collection. The terms of the donor's bequest forbid it, and the full-size colour reproduction jarringly included in the show is no substitute.

The companion panel, an autumnal panorama where the Het Steen estate is exuberantly surveyed with the aid of a luminous early morning sun, looks equally triumphant. Like the hunter stalking his prey behind a flowering blackberry bush in the foreground, Rubens pursues his subject with eagerness, cunning and absolute resolution. His unfeigned brush leads our eyes out and away from the sheltered house and into the open plain, taking flight with the ease of a bird and winging far across the meadows towards a verdant, infinitely desirable horizon. The sensuality of Rubens's obsession with his favoured region is conveyed here at full strength. No wonder he always kept this heady, miraculous painting in his own possession: it is the most heartfelt of all his landscapes.

● Rubens's Landscapes, sponsored by Esso UK, is at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) from tomorrow until Jan 19.

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available classical music recordings,
presented in conjunction with Radio 3

WAGNER'S PARSIFAL

Reviewed by David Hockvale

WAGNER'S last opera, premiered in 1882, is often regarded as a Christian work, but it is more helpful to regard it as a study of the psychopathology of religion. Even more than that, *Parsifal* allegorises the conflict between emotional and sexual manipulation, represented by Klingsor and his unwilling accomplice Kundry, and the development of Parsifal's capacity for compassion. Because of Wagner's obnoxious racial views, which reached an alarming climax while he was at work on the score, it has become more fashionable than ever to debate how far he intended an anti-Semitic subtext.

The importance of *Parsifal* cannot be over-estimated. Debussy called it "one of the loveliest monuments of sound ever raised to the serene glory



of music". It is such an elaborate monument, though, that no recording is perfect. Of the 11 versions currently available on CD, Georg Solti's version (Decca) is very respectable, but his orchestral tone, though impressive, tends to be a bit heavy-handed. Armin Jordan's recording (Erato) brings together an effective cast but fails to work from an orchestral point of view.

Excellent though Daniel Barenboim's *Parsifal* (Teldec) generally is, he is let down by Matthias Hölle's Gurnemanz.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6XZ or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Chopin's Waltzes

AROUND THE GALLERIES

PERHAPS Jane Simpson's sculptural work on all three floors at Laurent Delایe has been installed too sparsely.

Günther von Kärtner's *Klingsor*, Dunja Vejzovic, does not have such a mature voice, though she does bring an appropriate other-worldly quality to the role. Karajan's Kundry, Dunja Vejzovic, is the unsurpassable Kurt Moll and there is an excellent Klingsor in Siegmund Nissenzweig. Peter Hofmann's Kundry is rather strained. Even so, his silver tone is more appropriate than Jerusalem's for Barenboim.

The orchestral style of Barenboim and Karajan is similar. Both adopt sensible speeds and coax sumptuous playing from the Berlin Philharmonic, but Karajan's (Deutsche Grammophon, 413 347-2, £49.99) offers the more lyrical approach creating the orchestral "cloud layers" which Debussy described as being illuminated as from behind.

The printing process of the

billboard posters, magazines and newspapers where such icons were found captured the imagination of both artists. Laing says he was fascinated by the way a medley of dots on a massive canvas could at a distance turn into a recognisable form. A head and shoulders of Bardot superimposed with an annular disc was Laing's earliest major

work, based on a Young Contemporaries exhibition advertisement.

He moved to New York, where Life magazine became one of his main sources of inspiration. Laing's *Skydivers* originated in a photograph of a red and white striped parachute collapsing. His *Dragsters* were initially based on a snapshot of champion driver Don "Big Daddy" Garlits.

In 1968 Laing hand-painted the current series, but many were put into store after his dealer switched to selling Old Masters. Disenchanted with New York, Laing quit America and immersed himself in rebuilding a ruined castle at Kinkell in Scotland.

By the early Seventies he

was concentrating on abstract landscape-related sculpture.

Then one summer dawn, after a party, he found himself



BB (1968) by Gerald Laing

and newspapers where such icons were found captured the imagination of both artists. Laing says he was fascinated by the way a medley of dots on a massive canvas could at a distance turn into a recognisable form. A head and shoulders of Bardot superimposed with an annular disc was Laing's earliest major

sitting beneath the Royal Artillery Memorial at Hyde Park Corner sculpted by Charles Sergeant Jagger.

The heroism of the sculpture, he recalls, overwhelmed him. Laing enthusiastically began to turn towards a more representational style and now has his own bronze foundry in the grounds of his castle, where he has created a number of vivacious, realistic and often outsized sculptures.

The last two of his four rugby players commissioned for the four piers of the Rowland Hill Gate at Twickenham are to be installed in November. They are outstandingly powerful. His new work has all the drama of his "dot" paintings and more.

ALISON BECKETT

● Gerald Laing: *Starlets, Skydivers & Dragsters* is at Whitford Fine Art, 6 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1 (0171-930 9332) until October 18.

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LIVING BRIDGES

The exhibition has superb models of bridges, real and fantastic. A stunning exhibition! Sunday Times

Until 15 December 1996, 10am-6pm daily. Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-437 7459). "Living Bridges" is supported by the Corporation of London and the Générale des Eaux Group in association with The Independent. The exhibition was realised with the Centre Georges Pompidou, (MNAM-CCI). "Living Bridges" includes the Thames Water Habitable Bridge Competition.

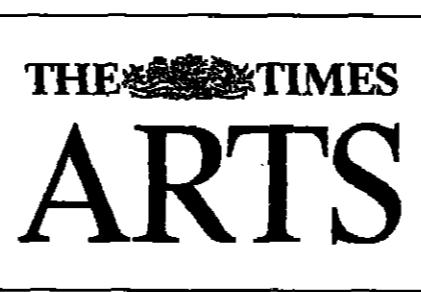
SACHA CRADDOCK

**CHOICE 1**

Music by John Cage launches a season of American pieces
VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

**CHOICE 2**

Yasmina Reza's cult hit play *Art* receives its UK premiere
VENUE: Opening night at Wyndham's Theatre

**CHOICE 3**

... while Ben Elton's Hollywood satire, *Popcorn*, comes to Leeds
VENUE: This week at the West Yorkshire Playhouse



OPERA
Glyndebourne's *Figaro* goes on the road with a variable cast of young singers

LONDON

ALTERED STATES. Two weeks of American music have been added to the week-long Estonian Game Week. Estonia: Estonian Game Week, Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High St, London E14 9AW. Mon-Fri 10am-10pm. Tonight, 7.30pm.

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. A number of the most moving and astringent voices of America converge on the South Bank this autumn providing a glimpse of the darker side of the continent's cultural life. Tonight, the *Brooks Atkinson* season begins. Stand première: a programme featuring music by John Cage, Steve Reich and George Crumb. Highlight of the evening is the world premiere of a work by Michael Daugherty.

De Montfort Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 2421). 7.45pm. £6.

ART: Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in Christopher Hampton's translation of the Paris success by Yasmina Reza, *Matthew Warchus*.

Wyndham's, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tonight, 7pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm; matins Wed, 5pm; Sat and Sun, 3pm.

POP CULT FOR HOLLYWOOD?

M. Morse D. Duck, *Cinderella*, the Fantasia buckets and brooms, plus many other Disney creatures, canon on

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Martin Hargreave

the lots in a lavish extravaganza.

Wembley Arena, Wembley (0181-900 1234). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sun, 7.30pm; matins Tue (Oct 22) to noon and 3.45pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Welsh National Opera's autumn season continues with the company's new production of Mozart's sublime opera, *Don Giovanni*. Directed by John Caird, the role of Don is sung by David Alkins.

Not much of a star, but a wonderful footwork, set to music by Berlin, Gershwin and Ellington, the show choreographed by David Alkins.

LIVERPOOL: The tour of the British Isles continues for *Hedda Gabler*, the avenging, snarling, snide and showy characterisation of David Alkins.

Not much of a star, but a wonderful footwork, set to music by Berlin, Gershwin and Ellington, the show choreographed by David Alkins.

LEEDS: Ben Elton's stage version of his novel *Popcorn*, where a

sex/violence film director is cornered by two serial killers in his apartment and the role of the media in such matters is taken by Laurence Luckinbill, director of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The Comedy Theatre, Wellington Circus, London WC2 (0171-941 2111). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Nov 9.

NOTTINGHAM: The Shakespearian Dance Company arrives with its award-winning work, *Romance*, with Footnotes. The programme also features a work set to the rhythm of the Tamil language.

Playhouse Theatre, Wellington Circus, London WC2 (0171-941 1088).

EDINBURGH: Second stop on its tour of the UK for the Royal Opera House's production of the *Alceste*. The Magic Flute plays on Wed and Sat, and Norma on Thurs. See review on this page.

Playhouse Theatre, 18 Grosvenor Place (0171-557 2590). Performances start at 7.15pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

BARBICAN: Erwin Blumenfeld (0171-638 4141), ... British Museum: *Mysteries of the Mind* (0171-580 4155) ... Brussels: Old Master Art (0171-637 2381) ...

HEYWOOD: Robert Mapplethorpe, Antony Connelly (0171-934 3140) ... National: *Accidents of Fortune* (0171-940 2747) ... Royal Academy: Alberto Giacometti 1901-1966 (0171-433 7438)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

■ WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

French, Alison Steadman and Lee

McLean hold the spangled seal of Julie

Kiely's production of *The Trespasser*, every bit as fine as *Chamberlain*.

Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-868 8888).

THE LODGER: Murray Melvin (back

gives us into the depths of the man who

the man thought to be the Lock Roper

and his ladybird (Lynne Frederick).

Theatre Royal, Gerry Rafferty Square,

E15 (0171-532 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm

■ SHOPPING: Max Ravenhill's

savage play for *Out of Joint*, gods

of money, gods of power, directors

of taste. The Crucible, Trafalgar Sq,

Richmond (0181-940 0141). Mon-Sat,

4.45pm; matins Thurs (Oct 17, 24, 31).

■ LONG RUNNERS

■ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-388 1871) ... Fiddler on the Roof (0171-930 8800) ... 5 Star (New London)

(0171-405 0072) ... The Complete

Works of William Shakespeare (Abreast): Criterion (0171-389 1737) ... The Duke of Burgundy (0171-494 5070).

■ GREESE: Dominion (0171-416 6060)

■ UNCLE VANYA:

Max Rydine's stony

comedy of manners, *Death of a Salesman*,

Derek Jacobi, Peggy Mount, Derek Jacobi, Richard Johnson,

Albert, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-389 1730). Mon-Sat, 2.30pm; matins Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until November 16.

■ POOL FOR LOVE:

Ivan Brown

directs Barry and Loraine

Ashton in *Sam Shepard's* fierce

drama of love on the edge of the Mojave desert. The Old Vic, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-389 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; matins and Sat, 4pm. Until Nov 30.

■ LAUGHTER ON THE BROADWAY:

Neil Simon's funny account of

working among a team of carpenters for

corridors in *Seas Captain back in the*

1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid

and Sam, 3pm. Until November 16.

■ NEW RELEASES

■ BROTHERS IN TROUBLE (15)

Resonant drama about legal

immigrants in 1960s Britain, with Om Puri and Angeline Ball. Director, Udayan Pillai. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-631 6142). Mon-Fri 7.30pm. £7.05/£7.50.

■ JACK (15): Joyful and pains of a

child with an ageing disposer, played by

Robert Williams. Flax and Matthew

comedy-horror director Francois Coppo

Coppo: Kensington (0171-526 1666)

Leicester Square (0171-526 1666)

Swiss Cottage (01493 614093) UCI

Whitleybury (01992 889591) Virgin

Chelmsford (0171-352 5096)

■ LONE STAR (15): John Sayles's

absorbing and humane drama about

life in the Rio Grande Valley. With Chris

Cooper and Elizabeth Perkins.

Curzon Soho (0171-384 0202)

Notting Hill (0171-727 2102) Notting

Hill Cinema (0171-727 2102

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LAW

Edward Fennell opens the debate on law lords for *The Times* Law Awards 1996 with One Essex Court

When judges push out the boundaries

The law lords sit as Britain's highest court in the land. An elite band of 12 judges who wear suits, not wigs and gowns, they sit five at a time in an unassuming room in the House of Lords. They are the final court of appeal and their judgments determine the law. But are they increasingly treading into new territory?

Do they, more often, create new law — and increasingly in contentious areas of social policy? In short, are the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary, to give them their full title, assuming a more proactive role as lawmakers — more akin to the judges in the American Supreme Court?

The question is the topic for this year's *Times* Law Awards. Students of all ages registered with a UK educational institution are invited to write up to 1,000 words on the subject, "The law lords in the 1990s: a new Supreme Court?", and win one of several prizes totalling more than £6,000.

The topic gives entrants the chance to examine the role and ambitions of the law lords and give a personal interpretation of some of the most controversial cases decided by the law lords this decade.

Some observers of the legal scene claim that there is an increasing presumption among the highest court of the land, that rather than providing simply a definitive interpretation of the law, it has pushed the boundaries of judicial creativity. Through the exploitation of grey areas of statute, the law lords are effectively originating law in line with their own personal views — even, some may argue, with their own private agenda. Supreme but unelected, they are in effect taking the law into their own hands.

Defenders of the law lords reject such claims as the delusions of conspiracy theorists. The senior judges, rather than pursuing their own motives, have been diligent, say their supporters, in their efforts to interpret what Parliament has

actually meant when passing legislation.

Gaps in the law have, admittedly, been plugged via House of Lords rulings — but only in line with the intention of a particular Act. Far from reaching for power, the law lords have been assiduous in striving to give effect to what Parliament intended.

The debate raises fundamental constitutional issues — and in particular, the balance of power between the executive legislature and the judiciary.

Appropriately, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who holds a unique position as a member of both executive and judiciary, will head the team of judges of this year's *Times* Law Awards.

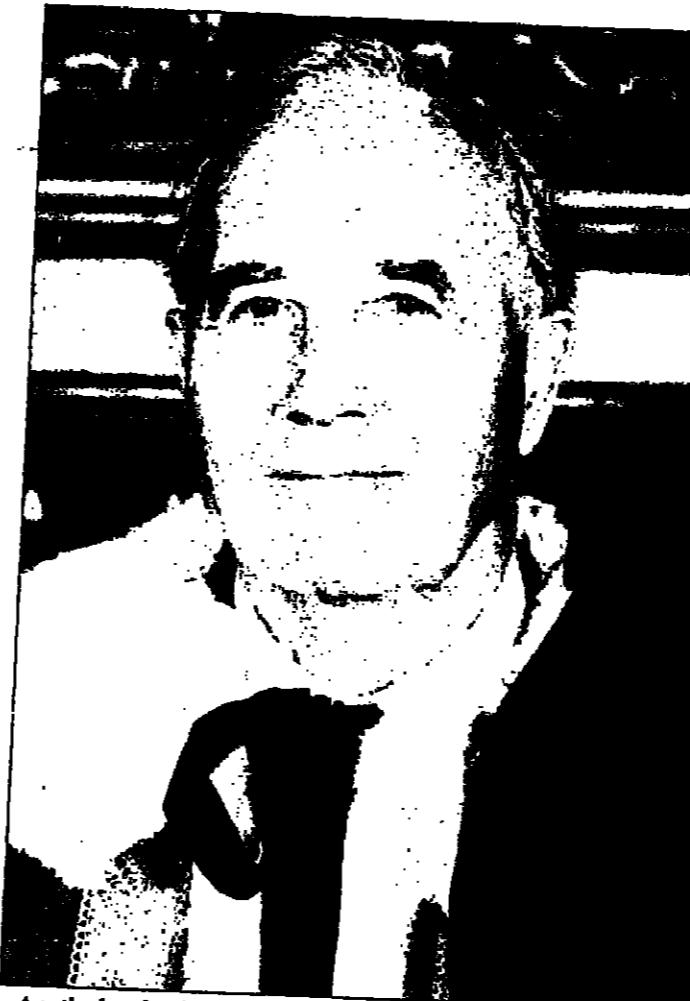
Also in the team is Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls and one of the country's most senior legal figures.

Lord Mackay sits as a law lord — and Lord Woolf has recently re-signed as law lord to head the Court of Appeal civil division. They are joined by Anthony Grabiner, QC, Head of One Essex Court, sponsors of the award for the second year; Jeffrey Gruber, a leading member of chambers; and

Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*.

There is no shortage of source material to fuel the argument. One of the most illuminating indications of how the law lords see themselves was provided in May of this year when Lord Goff of Chieveley, now the senior law lord, remarked in the case *Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale v Council of the London Borough of Islington*: "It is the great advantage of a Supreme Court that not only does it have the great benefit of assistance from the judgments of the courts below but also has a greater freedom to mould, and remodel the authorities to ensure that practical justice is done within the framework of principle. The present case provides an excellent example of a case in which this House should take full advantage of that freedom."

The essence of the debate can be found in the claim by Lord Goff to be able to "mould" and "remould... within the framework of principle". Does this amount to an extension of the law lords' role? His words must be set against the sentiments expressed in 1991 by Mr Justice Hoffman (now Lord) in the case of Stoke-on-Trent v B&Q plc: "These questions involve compromises be-



Are the law lords, such as Lord Templeman, left, and the former law lord, Lord Woolf assuming a more proactive role as lawmakers?



Are the law lords, such as Lord Templeman, left, and the former law lord, Lord Woolf assuming a more proactive role as lawmakers?

tween competing interests which in a democratic society must be solved by the legislature... the function of the court is to review the acts of the legislature but not to substitute its own policies or values."

One feature of some controversial cases where the law lords are accused of lawmaking is that their decisions have drawn on sources

beyond Parliament. The European Convention on Human Rights has shaped a number of decisions, often to the displeasure of the Government. On other occasions, the law lords have taken account of cases in the United States as a way of construing the "framework of principle". Adding fuel to the fire is the current political make-up of the

law lords, which is possibly more liberal than ever before. But as they make decisions that break new ground, the law lords find themselves dubbed radicals or conservatives.

Some, too, detect a rise in the number of split rather than unanimous decisions, lending support to the view that the law lords are

being influenced by personal values or policy considerations. In 1993, in the widely reported ruling *Regina v Brown*, over a group of sadomasochists and whether they could consent to violence as part of their sexual activity, Lord Templeman refused to countenance a defence of consent. The case has gone to the European Court of Human Rights.

Europe, and its influence, raises a further dimension: what role will the law lords have if Labour comes to power and incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into United Kingdom law as it has pledged to do? The majority of senior judges are in favour of incorporation. But Lord Mackay has come out strongly against, warning that it would lead to the politicisation of the judiciary — with senior judges' political and other credentials up for public scrutiny, as happens with appointments to the US Supreme Court. If this came about, public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the judiciary could be at risk.

The law lords in the 90s: a new Supreme Court?

THE TIMES LAW AWARDS 1996

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Two cases of morale

INNS AND OUTS

THE market research firm MORI is embroiled in a dispute with Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, over what it sees as an attempt to undermine its poll on morale in the Crown Prosecution Service. Bob Worcester, director of MORI, complained to Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, after the DPP declined to take part in the MORI poll but then launched her own. Mr Worcester was unwilling to comment yesterday on the exchange of letters with Mrs Mills. But he is known to be unhappy.

The MORI poll was commissioned by the First Division Association, the union for senior civil servants.

A CPS spokesman said it conducted its own poll to obtain a comprehensive picture. "We felt the MORI survey would be unrepresentative. But the Director has undertaken to consider the MORI findings in relation to our development of human resources strategy."

The CPS survey has not been generally published. It found that more than half the 6,571 staff were dissatisfied with the image of the CPS and its ability to provide the public with a high quality service. Of the 2,200 prosecutors, 70 per cent were not happy with the channels of communication. But staff did cite some positive aspects, including job security, variety and the chance for responsibility.

Bash at the bar

BARRISTERS at Fountain Court, headed by Peter Scott QC, are holding a bash at the

Wallace Collection on Friday to celebrate what they consider a record number of judicial appointments out of one set of chambers. They include Lord Birmingham, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justices Brooke and Potter; Tom Morrison QC who is President of the Employment Appeals Tribunal; Gordon Langley QC and Timothy Walker QC — both recently made High Court judges and Charles Gibson QC who has been made a circuit judge.

Reforming aid

THE chief executive of the Legal Aid board, Steve Orchard, has launched a furious attack against the Legal Action Group over its critical analyses of Government's plans to reform legal aid. In a letter to the group's journal, he describes an article which argued the reforms would be unlikely to increase access to justice variably as "unrealised," "ill-informed," "larg-

ely speculative," and "wholly inaccurate". He says: "No mention was made of the Government's stated intention to proceed carefully with each step being fully informed by pilots." The letter goes on to reveal just how stunned the board has been by recent judicial criticism of its decisions.

Willing charity

CLIENTS are more likely to leave money to charity if solicitors broach the subject according to a survey of 1,500 law firms sponsored by the charity Jewish Care and Sime & Ford, who work for more than 800 charities. Legacies make up one third of the voluntary income raised for UK charities, with many relying on legacies for more than 60 per cent of their voluntary income. Daryl Green, Jewish Care's legacy executive, said: "We hope solicitors will take a more proactive role."

Posts deserted

TWO City lawyers are deserting their posts to join two pretenders to the City law firms' throne. Graeme Brister, who in 1985 was one of the youngest lawyers to become a partner at Linklaters & Paines, is joining the Leeds/Birmingham combine Pinsent Curtis to run its London office. Peter Richards-Carpenter is leaving as head of Baker & McKenzie's financial services to join Garret & Co.

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SOLICITORS

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Changing Direction

As the workload of law-firms increases, many firms are becoming almost desperate in their need for staff. This in turn makes it easier for lawyers to switch from one area of specialisation to another.

The change was brought home to us last week when we placed a two-year qualified conveyancing solicitor with the banking department of a large City firm. This was remarkable because the solicitor had no experience at all in banking. Six months ago this would have been unlikely; a year ago, inconceivable. But the candidate was lively, intelligent, quick on the uptake, and attractive in every way except for his lack of experience. The firm was willing to turn him into a banking lawyer.

Staff shortages throughout the profession are making such career changes increasingly feasible. We have seen candidates move from general commercial litigation into specialist areas of litigation such as employment, PI and shipping. Candidates from industry with general commercial experience are being welcomed in such areas as construction and employment law. Banking and corporate work are other 'desperately' areas where PFI and international projects work.

Choosing a specialisation has always been a serious problem for newly qualified lawyers. During the recession they hadn't much choice, and were stuck with what they were given. Now at last they have a chance to move into a more attractive area of work. Given the present job-market they may not have to take a cut in salary to do so.

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BUSINESS TRAVEL

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

Rushing from A to B in real comfort

Sir Michael Bishop, the shrewd and well-respected chairman of British Midland, is convinced that Europe's business travellers have had enough of watching the pennies, sticking rigidly to ever tighter budgets and being forced to rub shoulders — literally — with leisure air passengers.

His instincts are backed by a new survey from *Vista International* which indicates that Britain's business travellers are beginning to rebel against the pressures and stresses of the cut-throat climate of the 1990s. They now want to put their travel time to more effective use — and that means taking more time on board for relaxation.

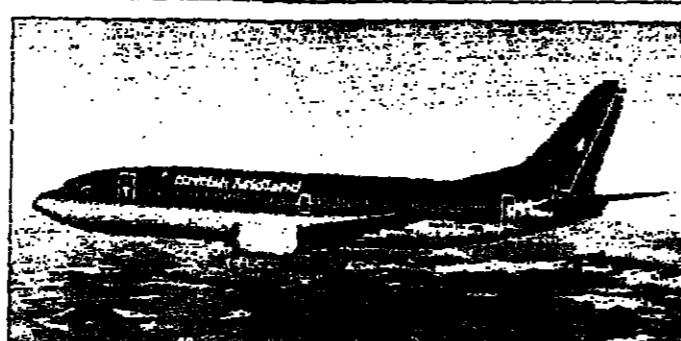
Despite the apparent unstoppable rise of the "no frills" airlines and the continuing demand for ever lower air fares, Sir Michael is prepared to spend heavily in giving pride and status back to the domestic as well as the European business traveller.

He does not believe that budget airlines will find it easy to succeed in Europe and he is convinced that the long-term profitability of British Midland is more likely to be assured by business travellers prepared to pay £230 for a full unrestricted return fare between London and Glasgow than by leisure travellers paying £88 for a heavily restricted *ApeX* return.

Sir Michael is to introduce better meals and novel "concertina" seats which stretch to accommodate a business traveller and then shrink back to the shoulder-rubbing closeness of economy class travel.

Business class lounges are to be

Harvey Elliott on the business of travel throughout Europe and what clients can expect for their money



British Midland is giving status back to the business executive

built at key airports with new machines to enable passengers with hand luggage to "swipe" their credit card for instant boarding passes. The same standards of service will be given throughout both domestic and intra-European business class.

Domestic air services are now one class. But there are up to eight separate fares depending on when the ticket was booked and on the number of restrictions attached to it. Yet regular business travellers are irritated when they sit beside someone who may have paid half as much as they did and yet who get the same standard and quality of service. There is no incentive to pay more than one class, British Midland says.

The problem is that this means

complain of the rules imposed by their head offices which means them flying at unsociable hours, using designated airlines, staying in inconveniently sited hotels and being forced to use economy class travel, says the *Vista* survey.

Business travel is on the increase both in short and long-haul routes. If the business traveller who has triggered the enormous structural changes in the industry, epitomised by the planned alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

Both have realised that business travel crosses all national boundaries and that the businessman with a company in Barcelona who has to fly to America has to go through a major "hub" airport to catch a long distance flight. That change can be made at Madrid, Paris, Frankfurt or London and the overriding criterion which will decide which he chooses is the ease of booking and the number of transatlantic flights available.

Lufthansa, KLM, SAS and others have already made arrangements with American Airlines which are designed to attract these vital "feeder" passengers.

But it is a trend which does not please Richard Branson, whose Virgin Atlantic has achieved an enviable reputation for service and quality among business passengers.

Over the past ten years his airline has taken a 5 per cent share of the entire market between Europe and America and is rapidly expanding its operations on both long haul business routes.

But with no "feed" of passengers from smaller cities to



Europe's business people expect excellent service, and are prepared to pay more for it

help to fill the 400 or so seats on its jumbo jets, the airline is bound to be squeezed by those who do.

American and BA claim that if the alliance goes ahead and Heathrow is thrown open, competition is

bound to lead to a lowering of fares and further improvement in the quality of service. Virgin predicts that BA/AA will eventually have a monopoly and that business fares especially will then soar.

For millions of European business travellers — even more so than the airlines involved — the decisions taken by regulatory bodies and governments within the next few weeks could be vital.

Eurostar finally gets up to speed

Steve Keenan on a company that now has the powerful marketing of Virgin behind it

The Virgin takeover of Eurostar marketing this autumn gave business travel through the Channel Tunnel its biggest fillip to date. The company brought its airline expertise to bear on the rail service to Paris and Brussels and this was reflected immediately in pricing, advertising and marketing.

Virgin inherited a service that has already largely overcome the technical problems which plagued Eurostar in its first two years. It also inherited an expanding departure schedule — 14 daily services to Paris and eight to Brussels — which now matches those of airlines and fulfills a key business travel criterion of frequency.

But its growth — from 3.9 million to 6.4 million passengers in the year to August 1996, an increase of 64 per cent — has largely been in the leisure market, which has low profit margins. Virgin is looking to chase the floating business traveller with a series of enhancements and service initiatives, and a new pricing structure also introduced on October 1.

Virgin has copied its airline structure in having four classes of travel and introducing a new top-tier level, Premium First. The old First is now Business First, followed by Economy Plus and Standard.

The addition of Premium First means that Eurostar has bumped up ticket prices to £352 return from £265, the Business First fare. For the extra £87, travellers receive free car parking at Ashford and, to follow, a free taxi or chauffeur-driven motorbike.

But they also have the option of flying out or back by British Midland on a fully interchangeable ticket, a big bonus for business travellers who often change plans at the last minute. For both Premium and Business



Eurostar has met key business travel agents to discuss improvements

First passengers, innovations this month include cutting check-in times to ten minutes, express check-in aisles and business lounges. A free standard return ticket comes with both classes and a frequent traveller points scheme will follow.

Eurostar has also got to grips with allowing ticket changes to be made over the telephone, rather than having to issue new tickets and forcing travellers to apply for refunds. Meanwhile ticket dispensers have been installed in business travel agencies and are linked to computer reservation systems (crs), allowing immediate ticketing.

Such measures are specifically aimed at driving up profits from the business travel market while addressing weaknesses in the product. A Eurostar team recently met key business travel agents to discuss other areas where improvements could be made.

Business travel agents are also asking whether the new top fare of

£352 can be justified. Mr Platt says: "Each train has 800 seats to fill, so it could be argued the price shouldn't be so high."

But there are early signs that a Eurostar price war is on the cards. Virgin is one of six companies in the London & Continental consortium which took over Eurostar's UK franchise and will build the new rail link from London to the tunnel.

However, the Eurostar service is also one-third owned by SNCF French Railways and Belgian Railways. SNCF is approaching firms that spend heavily with offers of a corporate discount. Eurostar UK has responded in kind, while offering a joint discount agreement for both Eurostar and Virgin Atlantic.

Competition between SNCF and Eurostar UK towards offering cheaper fares or bigger corporate discounts is almost inevitable. There is no doubt of Eurostar's appeal to business travellers as the service has already taken more than half the air market to Paris and Brussels.

Passenger numbers flying between Heathrow and Paris CDG fell by 30 per cent last year from a peak of 3.3 million in 1993. On October 28, Air France follows Air UK and British Midland in ending flights to Paris Orly airport, instead of building services to Paris CDG to profit from travellers connecting with its long-haul network.

Carlson Wagonlit saw its air revenue to Paris fall by 30 per cent last year, while Eurostar revenues rose by 60 per cent.

The company also saw a 24 per cent increase in Eurostar passengers changing trains at Lille or Paris for other cities in France.

While the appeal of Eurostar has largely been restricted to date to users in central London or Kent, the planned expansion of Eurostar services from cities throughout the UK will also heighten its profile. Daytime services from Manchester and Birmingham start in March, and from Glasgow in June, calling at other UK stations en route. Overnight trains to Paris are due to follow.

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Top hotels cash in on executive five-star fever

Business hotels are commanding higher rates as demand from executive travellers reaches its highest point since the late 1980s.

A survey from the consultants Arthur Andersen shows that the average rate for a London luxury hotel is, for the first time, more than £200 a night, and that such top London hotels as the Berkeley, Claridge's, Grosvenor House, Landmark and Savoy are nearly full during the crucial midweek period.

"If you turn up during the week and expect a room on the spot, then you will probably be unlucky," said Tim Steel from Arthur Andersen.

The highest average room rate among 20 hotels surveyed was £282, although Andersen declines to name rates at individual hotels because of the survey's confidentiality.

For the first time, North Americans are the biggest single source of guests for London luxury hotels, accounting for just over 36 per cent, with continental Europeans, at 20.4 per cent, just ahead of British-based guests.

London is not alone in experiencing higher rates, according to business travel agency Hogg Robinson. "The general increase in hotel rates worldwide reflects both a growing general demand for hotel accommodation and a renewed interest in more expensive rooms," said Carolyn Moore, Hogg Robinson's divisional manager for hotels.

"There is evidence that some travellers who had to downgrade from four and five star hotels during the recession are now becoming confident enough to return to them."

The more common trend, which is leading to higher average room rates, is to upgrade to more expensive rooms in the same hotels. Companies tend to be booking 'executive' rooms instead of the

Business travellers want to feel good, and now they're happy to pay for the privilege, says David Churchill

standard rooms more commonly requested in 1995."

According to the Hogg survey,

Japan and Russia remain the most expensive countries to visit on business travel; Japan's average room rate rose almost 28 per cent this year in comparison with 1995.

Hong Kong moved from fourth place to top in Hogg's survey as the world's most expensive city, with an average rate of £155; London came 11st out of the 83 cities monitored.

In Western Europe, Italy experienced the biggest jump in average room rates — up 11 per cent — while Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany saw their rates decline. German cities such as Cologne and Berlin have softened their rates and are offering discounts even during their peak 'trade fair periods,' said Moore.

Although business travellers appear more willing to pay higher room rates, there is still concern over extra charges imposed by hotels. The Institute of Travel Management, which represents corporate travel buyers, last week met with representatives of the leading hotel chains to voice that concern. The managers argued that extra room charges could add at least 20 per cent to room prices.

While many executives avoid the excessive surcharges imposed by hotels on telephone calls by using a mobile phone or special calling card such as offered by BT, AT&T

and others, the newest area of concern is hotel laundry services and costs.

A survey by *Business Traveller* magazine concluded that "too many hotels appear not to have adjusted their laundry services in line with their guests' demanding travel patterns".

Andrew Solum, an ITM member and travel manager for Inmarsat, the satellite communications company, said: "What is the use of having a laundry service from 9am until 7pm, when travellers turn up at 10pm and are away for a meeting or to catch a flight at 7 o'clock the next morning?"

According to the *Business Traveller* survey, European hotels have some of the highest laundry and dry cleaning charges in the world, with London coming out top of the 22 cities surveyed.

Hotellers prefer to focus on their efforts to win business travellers through other facilities, especially in-room technology. Following on from developments in the US, the leading hotel chains such as Inter-Continent, Marriott and Hyatt all believe the trend in business travel is for executives to want an office in their hotel rooms.

Most of the main business chains offer dual telephone lines, voice mail, modern links and computer access points, along with large desks, ergonomically designed chairs and better lighting.

Some hotels also have personal computers available, with the newly-opened Lindner Congress Hotel in Frankfurt claiming to be the first in Europe to offer a PC terminal in all its 315 rooms. Rooms have a modem, fax machine and multi-function ISDN phones with voice mail.

Claiming to be Europe's most technologically advanced hotel, it also has in-room television which offers 35 cable and satellite channels, 30 in-house video channels and eight Nintendo computer games installed.

Even small hotels are embracing new technology: the Chesterfield in Mayfair, central London, claims to be the first hotel in Europe to introduce an Internet service in all its 110 rooms. The system uses in-room televisions to provide a specially compiled Internet software package. Guests use a handheld keyboard similar to a television remote control to access electronic editions of thousands of newspapers and magazines from all over the world. The system is tailor-made to the Chesterfield's guest profile — mainly overseas business people — and also offers Internet web sites on business, finance, sport, weather and London entertainment news.

"We thought it would be useful for guests to come in, switch on their television and be able to read their hometown newspaper on the screen," said Peter Wood, general manager.



Duty-free shopping at Heathrow, which took £347 million last year from retail outlets. Britons are the biggest shoppers in Europe

EU presses on with tax law

Steve Keenan reports on what the loss of duty-free shopping will mean

The countdown is well under way to the abolition of duty-free shopping in the UK, ending the seemingly innocuous pleasure of buying a cheap bottle of whisky or case of wine.

The failure of Eurotunnel earlier this year to bring forward the scrapping of duty-free means shoppers have until June 30, 1999, to enjoy it.

The European Union insists that duty-free is incompatible with single-market laws. But the pro lobby points out that duty-free is a £12 billion worldwide industry — of which Europe accounts for half — and says duty-free creates jobs, reduces airline prices and that is demise is unnecessary.

The loss of duty-free income will have a serious impact on our revenue. Airport traffic charges could rise by up to 25 per cent and fares by 10 per cent," says Birmingham airport retail manager Steve Hodgetts.

But while lobbying to retain the system continues, the airports and the ferry companies are working on the basis that the privilege will go. It will be as hard on the retailers as the customers, the seven BAAs airports in particular having become increasingly dependent on shopping income since the capping of airport charges by the Government.

Heathrow, helped by the weakness of sterling, earned £347 million a week. The British are the

biggest shoppers in Europe. Two in five will buy duty-free goods, easily outstripping the 25 per cent of Germans who stop to shop.

The airport took two-thirds of the £550 million earned by all seven BAAs airports. Gatwick, taking £138 million and Southampton, Stansted, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen sharing the rest.

The story is repeated elsewhere. Newcastle airport saw retail income up 19 per cent last year, helped by new outlets in a £5.7 million extended terminal complex. This month Birmingham extended its shopping area by 170 sq metres to include swimwear, Timberland, Guinness and photographic products.

Duty-free sales also represent vital income for the ferry operators. Eurotunnel has more than trebled its shopping area at Folkestone to 24 tills, taking close to £1 million a week. The British are the

shopping centre with 120,000 items. Airports like Schiphol and Dubai have international reputations for their scale of shopping, travellers often deliberately flying via them to take advantage.

Britain's airports are only beginning to catch up, attempting to squeeze more space out of terminals not designed to be shopping arcades.

At Gatwick, BAA is trying another development — electronic shopping. Galleria Twenty-One is a computer screen display, enabling travellers to order and send flowers, for example, and pay by swiping a credit card.

Technology is the one bonus for the airlines, envious of airport and ferry capacity and constrained by space and weight restrictions. Many airlines have now incorporated shopping channels in seatback videos, allowing passengers to collect goods at their airport on arrival.

Air 2000 this summer also spent £500,000 on an on-board computer to speed up credit card transactions and improve tracking of sales and inventory which, in tests, increased sales by 5 per cent.

However, the prospect of 1999 holds little fear for the airlines. "We receive a negligible income from duty-free sales, so our operations and ticketing will not be greatly affected," says a spokeswoman for Air France.



The Intercontinental in Singapore puts executives in the lap of luxury

As of October 27:

First across the Channel

Hertz has been advertising on television in Britain for the first time in a decade, a sure sign that money is back in a sector that has been in the doldrums for many years.

In common with other aspects of business travel, income from car hire fell in the first half of the 1990s and has only recently picked up, enabling rental firms to put up prices by 15 per cent this year. Some rental companies will not accept one-day bookings, particularly midweek, and the average length of rental has crept up to 4.3 days.

The recession has forced rental firms to become leaner. Their customers have much tighter travel policies and are demanding more for their money. The bonus for car hire firms is that technology has had such an impact on the sector that quicker pre-booking, collection and drop-off of cars and detailed billing is now a standard feature.

Hire firms know that business travellers require, above all, lack of hassle. The need to pick up and drop off a car as quickly as possible is a prime consideration when choosing a rental company.

But they also know that hiring a car is an unglamorous aspect of business travel for most people, a functional mode of transport lacking the appeal of an airline or hotel room. Loyalty is earned by service and a host of extras such as bonus points schemes, mobile phones or laptop computers and in-car computers giving routes and traffic information.

The firms have to tackle two markets: individual business travel hirers and the corporates, who between them account for more than half of all car rentals booked in Britain.

Car rental companies are regaining customers. Steve Keenan reports

Working with a business travel agency is one of the most important keys to a corporate heart. A survey by Avis showed that more cars were hired because of agency recommendations than because of price. Another important factor in car rental is the alliances between car rental and airline or hotel companies. The use of one gives discounts or upgrades on another.

Hertz recently joined Lufthansa's loyalty scheme and has relationships with British Airways. Air France and Alitalia. It also has marketing deals with Eurotunnel and even Disneyland Paris. Meanwhile, Dollar customers now benefit on American Airlines and Alamo hirers with Hyatt.

TWA, United and Northwest, among others, Avis, remarkably, has alliances with 33 airlines.

Trying to buy loyalty is crucial to car hire firms as in any other sector of business travel. But it is in technology that some of the most important distinctions are made.

The Wizard reservations system used by Avis, one of the longest-established in the field, used to double as a fleet management system. Firms can discover

how often executives rent cars, what grade and for how long. Rental agreements can also be drawn up in advance, so keys can be picked up from an automated booth which tells them the bay number. Speed of service is particularly im-

portant at airports, which account for 27 per cent of corporate spending on car rental.

Hertz has taken the process further at Heathrow, where members of its El Club Gold programme see their name and parking bay displayed. The documents and keys are in the car, and identification is required only at the gate. Gold rentals now account for 30 per cent of Hertz business at airports and the programme is one of the main thrusts of its TV advertising campaign.

Companies such as Europcar, Eurodollar, Hertz and Alamo also issue customers with credit card-style ID cards through which data including payment details and driving licence can be accessed quickly in booking cars.

Eurodollar recently issued new cards, available to customers paying direct and with credit facilities linked to a company account, either of which can be swiped through a reader in the branch. The company was also the first rental firm offering quotes on the Internet, but without a booking facility, while its management system is now available in a Windows format.

For a few business travellers, style is more important than management systems or access to an airline loyalty scheme. Alongside standard Vauxhalls or Fords, the range of hire cars for hire now includes Ferraris, Jaguars — even Harley-Davidson motorbikes.

Budget makes a point of offering luxury cars. They include a Jaguar XJS for £149 a day or £649 for a week, and a Mercedes C-class Elegance for £99 daily or £345 for the week. The company also has three Harley-Davidsons at Heathrow from £99 a day.

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Hertz's TV ad: a sign of increasing demand for car hire

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THE TIMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

David Churchill on the deregulation of the European market and how one airline is making all the running in cosseting its passenger

BUSINESS TRAVEL

3

Business travellers flying in Europe from next April could be in for a surprise. New European Union regulations come into force which will, for the first time, create a totally deregulated market for airlines based within the EU, plus Norway and Iceland.

The full implementation of the so-called Third Package of aviation liberalisation measures – which began in January 1993 – will from April allow European airlines to operate domestic flights anywhere within Europe. Since 1993, European carriers have had free access to all routes, apart from purely domestic services, thus eliminating the requirement that journeys should start or finish in the carrier's host nation.

Thus, for example, a French airline could offer a service between Madrid and Milan without the need to be routed via a French airport. From April, restrictions on foreign carriers operating purely domestic services in another member state will be abolished. The spectre of Lufthansa flying services between London and Manchester in competition with British Airways could, therefore, become a reality, although the German airline might be too worried about Air France attacking its Frankfurt to Berlin routes to bother about Manchester.

What impact will deregulation have? Liberalisation will change the face of European business travel and the major players involved, among them corpora-

tions, travellers and travel management companies," Kyle Davis, head of American Express's European Air Fares Unit, says.

"Some of the biggest changes will be felt by the business traveller. It is likely that the individual traveller will have to get used to a culture of constant change. There may be a more convenient choice of schedules, but he or she will often be dealing with new or unfamiliar carriers. Add-ons, such as business lounges, may disappear as services become more basic, particularly at smaller airports."

As the US experience has shown, lower fares may also increase the total amount of air travel, leading to busier airports. And if the blurring that some foresee between schedule and charter does happen, then the business flyer may well find that he will have to accept the company of leisure travellers, too."

Mr Davis's comments may be ahead of the game as the indications are that Europe's airlines are not planning a major shake-up of their strategies post-April, especially to take each other on head-to-head in their home markets.

Moreover, American Express's own survey of changes since deregulation started in 1993, suggests that "passengers

have noticed a radical improvement in the choice of airlines on major routes".

The reasons, the Amex study suggest, have been partly to do with European recession and partly because of Europe's geography. Most of Europe's business travel takes place within the densely populated "golden circle" bounded by Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Milan, Paris and London where there are fewer

secondary airports, compounding the problem of slot congestion at most major hub airports.

The unavailability of slots elsewhere has made the large carriers reluctant to move away from their home airports from where they can at least exercise dominance over their home markets," the Amex report says.

British Airways has been most active in

developing a pan-European strategy to take account of deregulation with its acquisition of TAT, the French domestic airline which it now owns 100 per cent, and with a stake of just under 50 per cent in Deutsche BA, the German domestic carrier. While both these airlines operate under BA livery and standards, from April BA will have the added advantage of being able to display its own code on computer reservation systems for both

the growth of "no-frills" airlines, a concept which originated in America offers travellers a point-to-point flight across Europe without any of the add-on benefits such as free meals and drinks although you can buy these on board bigger seats, and other services.

Fares can be 50 per cent or more less than on scheduled carriers, although much depends on when and where you fly. Scheduled carriers base their more expensive fares on fewer restrictions which suit business travellers. No-frills airlines operate out of cheaper airports such as Luton, offer no on-board refreshments, and sell tickets directly without having to pay travel agents' commission and other distribution costs.

But no-frills operators such as EasyJet surprisingly report that it has identified significant proportion of business travellers among its holidaymakers, including some from large corporations as well as small to medium-sized businesses.

Such airlines may come and go, the US expertise is emulated in Europe, but there seems little doubt that the pace of change in Europe's skies is beginning to gather momentum. For business travellers, the issue is how far they are prepared to put up with less comfort in return for saving money. As one executive quoted in the Amex report wryly commented: "In two years' time there will still be two cabins on the London to Amsterdam service."



New EU rules mean airlines can operate domestic flights anywhere within Europe

Strengthening the links between work and runway

Can the journey of 50 million passengers who use Heathrow each year be made easier?



At United Airlines' lounge, Heathrow, customers can take a shower and have breakfast

Richard Branson is claiming a new first in the airline world: a drive-through check-in service at Heathrow for business passengers on Virgin Atlantic. David Churchill writes.

Mr Branson, chairman of the airline, says: "We expect to whisk up to 200 Upper Class passengers a day through this new limousine service – another world first for air travel."

Virgin's Upper Class passengers, who are already driven to the airport in a complimentary Range Rover, are taken to a special area at the Terminal 3 short-term car park where a check-in agent and baggage porter complete formalities. Once equipped with a boarding pass they are dropped off at the departures level and walk with hand baggage only through the Fast Track security and immigration channels and into Virgin's clubhouse lounge.

Virgin has consistently adopted a strategy of cossetting its business class passengers even before they get to the airport – it was the first airline to offer a free limousine transfer and also has motorbikes available for a faster journey through heavy traffic – and its new service will clearly take some of the hassle out of airport journeys and may be extended elsewhere.

Delays in getting to and through airports remain one of the biggest problems for business travellers. A survey by the magazine *Executive Travel* about the problems of travelling to London's airports suggested that, while in theory there are good connections, "the reality proves to be somewhat different, because of traffic jams and road rage on clogged motorways and system failures, industrial disputes and frayed nerves on the underfunded Underground".

The airport authorities are aware of the problems and Heathrow access should be helped by the planned Paddington Express Rail-link due in 1998. But BAA is taking no

chances with plans for a temporary station close to the airport to enable a limited service, with access by shuttle bus, to be in operation before the main service opens. Total journey time from Paddington under this scheme would be just 25 minutes.

The airport authorities have several other plans under consideration for turning Heathrow into a major rail hub, although these are dependent on private finance. One of the plans under discussion involves a fast rail link between Heathrow and Gatwick, a move which would increase the popularity of Gatwick with business travellers.

Those business travellers who prefer travelling to the airport by car are being wooed by the development of valet parking services. Corporate clients of Hogg Robinson, for example, can have their car parked when arriving at the terminal, and need only to make a freephone call to have

it returned. Hogg Robinson charges £13.50 for one day and £31.50 for three days. Other valet parking operators charge just over £24 for one day and £45 for three, although the longer travellers stay away the cheaper the service becomes in comparison with long-stay car parking charges. Hogg, for example, charges a fixed rate of £67.50 for 11 days or more, much cheaper than using the long-stay car parks.

Once inside the airport, the

Fast Track system continues to be well regarded by most business travellers offering a speedy transit through security and customs, with added benefits at duty free and bureaux de change, although there are some reports that congestion can be as bad during busy periods as the normal transit channels.

In particular, the Blue Track system used in some US airports is also causing concern: business travellers using

Miami airport, for example, have found the situation chaotic. They have particular difficulty finding the blue line to steer them through the Fast Track System. The newest lounge development at Heathrow is that of United Airlines. As with the British Airways and American Airlines arrival lounges, this offers 3,000 square feet of showers, individual valets, and personal baggage service to get luggage to hotels, breakfast and business facilities.

United has also just opened arrival lounges at Chicago and Miami airports. Mark Schwab, United's UK general manager, also points out that arrivals facilities for business travellers to freshen up are also available at many continental airports, including Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam.

"We think we have the most comprehensive and modern facilities for our arriving business passengers," he says.

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An expense account too far

Independent advice could save companies more than £5 billion a year on travel costs, says David Churchill

Better handling of the way European companies process their business travel expenses could save 6 per cent of their annual business travel — equivalent to a financial ring of about £5.6 billion a year, according to a new survey.

The survey of 77 major European companies, carried out by Price Waterhouse, the consultant, on behalf of American Express found that most companies waste time and money attempting to reconcile the travel expenses of executives on the move. This reconciliation accounts for about three-quarters of the "hidden" processing costs of business travel, apart from the actual cost of airline and hotel bookings.

The study shows that the business traveller spends considerable time collecting receipts, itemising expenses and calculating exchange rates.

Vahan Eminian, a senior Amex vice-president, says the survey shows that reducing "the previously hidden costs of business travel represents one of the most important opportunities companies have in the 1990s to deliver substantial savings on operating costs".

In the majority of the companies surveyed by the consultants, an average of 20 expense reports for overseas travel were submitted by executives each year. Price Waterhouse suggests that this could be reduced to 11 reports if an automated system were adopted.

Other ways of saving money include eliminating internal travel

departments and letting executives make their own bookings electronically.

The scope for savings on business travel is significant, as the generally accepted figure of spending by British companies on all their business travel expenses (including entertainment) is estimated to be more than £20 billion.

In the United States, according to the figures released by Amex last week, corporate business travel spending is forecast to reach a record high this year of \$156 billion (£100 billion) compared with \$150 billion in 1995.

Mr Eminian says: "With business travel and related expenses rated as the third largest controllable corporate expense after salaries and data processing, any well-managed company should be seeking to improve control over its travel spending."

But getting to grips with controlling costs does not mean simply putting pressure on the airlines and hotels for better deals, says Richard Lovell, managing director of Carlson Wagonlit Travel in the UK. "Such savings through tough negotiation with suppliers may be vastly outweighed by the implementation of a successful travel policy, focusing company travel spend on a few selected suppliers," he says.

Business travel agencies are helping companies to implement their policies — including consolidating all European or even global travel. The main agencies — Amex, Carlson and Hogg Robinson — are now moving away from their traditional role as agents (taking a commission from the airlines, hotels and car-rental companies) and are now working as consultants to their corporate clients.

This role has been partly forced on the agents by the airlines' move towards "capping" the commission the agents receive, thus reducing their income. But the agents also



Vahan Eminian: delivers savings

recognise that as companies feel the need to control travel spending, so advice from an agency becomes not only useful but also necessary.

Mr Lovell says: "Companies are becoming more sophisticated about travel management. But with the delaying of management during the recession and since, they often do not have enough scope to manage their travel as effectively. This is something we can do better than they can, and this is being realised."

In return, the agents are switching to a management fee system, especially with larger clients. Such systems have several variations, mainly to do with ways of coping with the commission airlines and hotels still pay. One practice is for such commission to go straight to the company, which then pays a fee to the agent.

Large companies, however, are also now employing high-level specialists travel managers to help to manage their travel expenditure. Unilever, for example, has a corporate culture of letting its worldwide operations (it has more than 300,000 employees in 80 countries and sales of £32 billion a year) operate fairly autonomously within its overall framework.

But in 1994 it recruited an experienced travel industry executive, Derek Jevson, to oversee its travel spending, to manage it more effectively and reduce some of the estimat-

ed £350 million the company spends on business travel and related costs.

Mr Jevson, who had worked for travel companies including British Airways and Hogg Robinson, says the aim was "to put the same sort of management discipline over our travel spending as we do when launching something like a new brand or detergent".

His approach, however, has not been to impose any systems on the operating companies but to offer advice and examples to show them how they can get a better deal themselves.

All the 27 UK operating companies were asked a year ago to join a committee advising best buy on travel (Cabot). Much of what Cabot has tackled so far is simply "good housekeeping" and clarification of existing policies. One major issue, however, has been dealing with frequent flyer programmes.

Mr Jevson says: "Our approach has been to recognise that we operate in the real world and that these programmes exist. But while we do not stop people accepting them, we do insist that they travel in the most cost-effective way for Unilever. If we find out, for example, that a traveller has plumped for a more expensive BA flight just to get Air Miles when there is a perfectly acceptable flight on another carrier, 20 per cent cheaper than BA, then we draw that individual's attention to the position."

This, adds Mr Jevson, is usually enough to end the matter.



Incentive trips include dog-sledding expeditions in Lapland

Fancy a spot of Arctic sledging?

An action trip abroad can be a big incentive to motivate successful staff

The good times are back in at least one part of the travel industry — the incentives market. Gung-ho motivation of sales staff by treating high-achievers to exotic overseas jollies was all the rage in the overheated, yuppie 1980s. Then recession struck and conspicuous hedonism at the company's expense became more difficult to justify to shareholders.

John Fisher, managing director of Page & Moy Marketing, says that his company's sales are up 25 per cent on last year. "In times of cost-cutting, you couldn't be seen to be doing it," he says. "but now that the feel-good factor is back, companies are beginning to appreciate the value of relationship building again. When money is not so tight, people start looking for that extra edge."

"In good times, cash incentives are regarded as cynical. It makes people feel as if they are economic units there to make money. Travel makes them feel as if they are valued as people."

The companies keenest to spend again on incentives are in the automotive industries, pharmaceuticals, information technology, financial services and telecommunications.

Sarah Webster, executive director of the Incentive Travel and Meetings Association, estimates that the UK industry is now worth £600 million, up from £500 million in 1994.

Len Altman, director at Maritz, says: "Nothing creates the same sort of desire as travel to an exotic location but it is not just that or the value of a trip. It is also that they are a symbol of success."

Such trips are usually hosted by the head of the sales team or the company for which they distribute, which means that participants can socialise with top executives.

Mike Whiteman, sales and marketing manager for Hogg Robinson's incentive travel division, says that the trips allow well-heeled people to do something as a group that even they could not afford or organise on their own.

Mr Whiteman says that incentives are no longer restricted to sales forces, traditionally the major beneficiaries of such largesse. "Strategically, companies are starting to take a more team-based approach and have noticed the potential of integrating areas such as accounts

AMON COHEN

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A point in your favour

Frequent traveller loyalty schemes are a big hit, but the taxman is coming, says Catherine Chetwynd

You can almost earn loyalty bonuses off having your hair cut these days. Points for Air Miles are being awarded at restaurants and petrol stations, by airlines, and by credit-card, car-rental and hotel companies. But far from diluting the appeal, ready availability has turned loyalty credits into a second currency.

Spouses are suing for points in divorce actions, claiming they are entitled to some split-off from the so-called luxury of business travel, and families evenicker over rights to the bonuses of deceased relatives.

But companies are beginning to question the advantages of loyalty schemes, as employees pursue not the company travel policy, but the most rewarding airline or hotel group. Research undertaken by MORI on behalf of Carlson Wagonlit, the business travel agent, shows that executives and travel managers admin Air Miles and frequent-flyer schemes could play an important role in affecting the choice of carrier.

In addition, the travel agent's guide to frequent-flyer programmes shows that while one carrier proves most lucrative on route A, another turns up trumps on route B, putting paid to any hope of consistency if travellers are left to their own devices in the quest for more mileage points.

Procter & Gamble led the way in ruling that points should be returned to the corporation, since they paid for the tickets. However, in the end, loss of morale exceeded cost savings, and the edict was rescinded. More than 50 Swedish companies, including Volvo, Electrolux and Saab are pressing SAS to redesign its Eurobonus scheme so that points are automatically returned to the firm. Electrolux hopes all the company's SAS credits worldwide will be placed in one account – an idea inspired by an arrangement between Norwegian company Knaer and carrier Braathens Safe.

Some airlines have corporate loyalty plans, rewarding both employer and employee. Lufthansa's Corporate Mileage Dividend Plan allows points to be credited to a company account. A monthly statement is sent to the designated contact and bonuses are given according to class travelled. And Virgin Freeway also operates a corporate account, rewarding both traveller and company, although the traveller comes off better. In Premium

conomy, for example, the executive is credited with miles flown, and the corporation gets half. But the Association of Corporate Travel Executives remains unconvinced. Membership of ACTE covers every discipline in the travel industry and at a seminar earlier this year, 84 per cent of travel buyers for multinational companies declared that they "preferred that loyalty programmes did not exist".

But all is not lost. Martin Symes, American Airlines' manager for corporate sales Europe, says carriers flagged as preferred in company travel policies can and do produce incentives for executives to adhere to policy.

Since the launch of frequent-flyer programmes some 13 years ago, most airlines have adjusted travellers' earning power and membership levels downwards, in some cases more than once. But the trend towards airline alliances means travellers can earn more from more popular sources.

Recent inducements include the introduction of a British Airways Diners Club Card, and a Royal Bank Advantage MasterCard from American Airlines and the Royal Bank of Scotland, both offering chances to earn miles on money spent. Hertz car rental has formed a partnership with Lufthansa for Miles & More members, and Radisson Hotels Worldwide with American Express.

Some organisations already insist executives take evening flights, even if it means the company has to pay for hotel accommodation, as this will still work out cheaper than prime-time air tickets. Norman Ryan, of Halliburton Group, the oil exploration company, says: "The company uses the cheapest fares" and these generally do not attract frequent flyer benefits.

But worst of all, it is possible that the tax man cometh. In Europe, corporate benefits in kind given to employees are taxable, as owners of company cars know all too well. But few travellers declare Air Miles on their tax returns. But in Canada the authorities reassessed the incomes of two executives to take account of free airline tickets received, basing the penalty on the notional value of the free ticket. The United States Internal Revenue Service has warned people taking free holidays on accrued miles that they are liable to tax – and possibly calculate on the cost of the business trip that yielded the miles.

Little more than a year after it introduced an upgraded business class cabin along with its new Boeing 777 aircraft, United Airlines is now planning to install a new Connoisseur Class on its long-haul flights. The new seats will be introduced over the next 12 months but their design owes much to the so-called "cradle seats" that BA has installed in Club World cabins.

This seat was ergonomically designed with the aim of enabling travellers to relax and sleep with the aid of electronically-controlled lumbar supports, better leg rests and "ear-flaps" on the headrest to give greater privacy. In addition, there is a movable light to provide better illumination when reading. BA's seat has tested well in flight comfort surveys this year, prompting United to emulate the design for its new seat.

"But we are adding extra features that take the seat a stage further," claims a United spokesman. "While the BA seat is designed to enable people to sleep on their backs, our seat is designed for people to sleep on their sides, which research has shown is the most usual position."

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Food is also seen by the airlines as a key marketing weapon, especially now that they offer lighter menus and are more flexible in allowing when people can eat. BA's "raid the larder" concept, which allows business-class passengers to get their own snacks during a flight, has apparently been slow to take off on ex-Heathrow flights but proved popular on flights into the UK. American executives, it seems, are less self-conscious about changing their in-flight eating habits.

But such factors as food, films and even in-flight telephones – while considered important in business class – are still probably not enough alone to determine the choice of airline. Most executives

decide on their carrier, if they have a choice, on the schedule and flight times (direct or via a hub) as well as considering which frequent-flyer programme they are with.

Hence the importance to the major airlines of establishing global networks. United already has code-sharing links with Lufthansa and other carriers while BA and American are still awaiting regulatory approval of their proposed alliance. Delta and Virgin Atlantic also have a limited alliance, offering Delta seats on Virgin's flights to and from Heathrow.

But while the major carriers are able to forge alliances to win custom, the smaller international airlines have had to come up with added-value benefits to woo travellers away from bigger networks.

Apart from usually offering a complimentary limousine service to and from the airport, the smaller carriers have eschewed first-class cabins in

favour of an upgraded business-class product. This was first conceived by Richard Branson about 12 years ago when he introduced first-class seats at a business-class price. Virgin still has some of the biggest business seats around, with a seat pitch of about 55 to 60 inches, depending on the aircraft, and its business class (called Upper Class) service recently won an award from the readers of *Business Traveler* magazine.

Surprisingly, for a company headed by Richard Branson, Virgin Atlantic is less high profile about business-class enhancements, preferring to tinker with the service rather than go for a major overhaul every two or three years (or more often) as its larger international rivals do. But it is looking at taking another quantum leap by introducing beds.

Other airlines operating a combined business and first-

class seats are fully packed.

Getting an upgrade for business to first, however, depends on whether or not the airline sees the commercial traveller as a CIP – a commercially important person. This class is often used as a marketing weapon to encourage loyalty (the ultimate is further upgrade to Concorde on the New York route) and also popular with executives flying BA carriers who often qualify for an upgrade.

But the major carriers seem reluctant to move away from a first-class premium cabin, even though demand can fluctuate considerably. Flights to New York, Washington and Hong Kong, for example, generally have the strongest demand for first-class seats while less popular routes with commercial travellers usually fill first class with business class upgrades.

Estimates from commercial travel agencies suggest that the overall picture on first class (taking the less busy routes along with those heavily in demand) is that only a fifth to a quarter of Virgin's Premier Economy.

Airlines make a new pitch for business

Carriers are finding new ways of sending you to sleep, says David Churchill

In the last year, it introduced an upgraded business class cabin along with its new Boeing 777 aircraft, United Airlines is now planning to install a new Connoisseur Class on its long-haul flights. The new seats will be introduced over the next 12 months but their design owes much to the so-called "cradle seats" that BA has installed in Club World cabins.

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American, for example, claims to be the only

Executive jets do it faster

illoried as a self-indulgence — particularly in the supposedly prudent — executive jets are ally disparaged as toys by boys. This is not rising as they conjure up is of the chairman disappearing on a junket for a day's g — but that is far from salutary.

Large multinational organisations can justify owning tall plane — or even a fleet. For one-off trips, in many destinations have covered in a day, charter makes more sense. There is the option of jet-sharing, Royal Dutch Shell, for example, keeps four jets at the ready. According to Brian Humphries, managing director of Shell Aircraft and chairman of the European Business Aviation Association, they are for the worldwide transport of senior executives. The factors are flexibility, fitting business opportunities, making possible a task that would not otherwise be tried out, and reaching parts of the world not served by scheduled services.

An example of a typical journey makes the point: a trip set off from Heathrow at 7.30am, reaching White Plains, New York, at 8.30pm, a stop in Aberdeen. Business was completed in time to leave White Plains at 8pm the next day and time differences meant the party arrived at 8pm in Wilmington, Delaware (there are no scheduled services between these cities), where it spent the night. The next arrival was at 4.30am in Amsterdam, where people went to Shell's head office. The group left for Heathrow an hour later.

Mr Humphries conservatively estimates the company saved a day by using its own aircraft — and that is a day per executive.

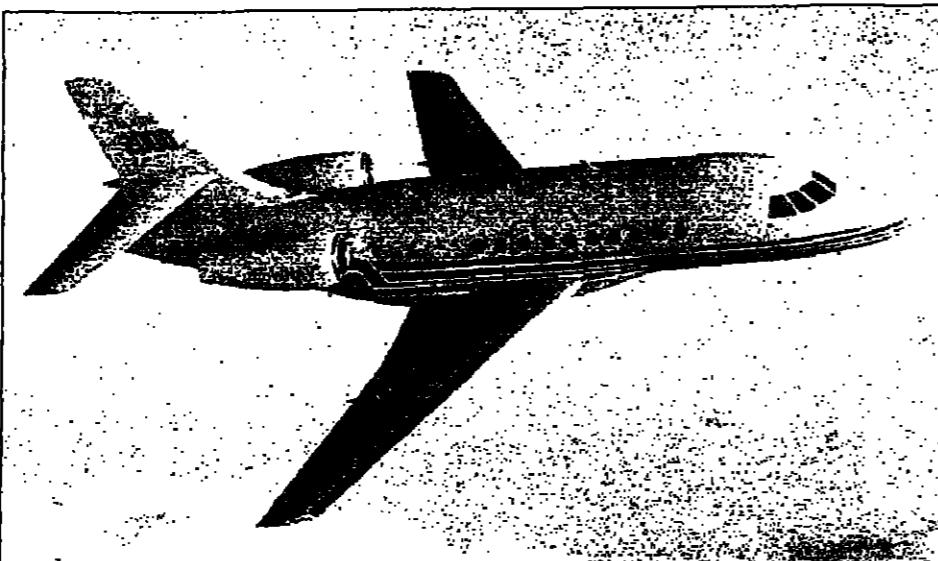
Whether chartering for individual trips or using the company fleet, the outstanding advantage of private aircraft is flexibility. You can choose a departure time and turn up five minutes before; if you are held up, the aircraft waits. Extended check-in times, customs queues and the longer flying time on commercial aircraft make many itineraries impossible without one or two nights' accommodation. Add the cost of keeping captains of industry sitting at airports and the expense of overnight accommodation, and air taxis start to make

greater use of chartered aircraft in the business sector, particularly in fast-moving industries such as banking, oil exploration and automotive manufacture.

Newer and more economic executive aircraft allow staff to spend time working rather than travelling.

London Executive Aviation (LEA), based at London City airport and at Stapleford in Essex, flies three types of aircraft, seating from four to ten people. Kim Wylie, head of flight operations, says the company started in 1990 with one aircraft and now has ten. The last two were purchased in the past 12 months in response to a marked upturn in business.

"We come into our own



Falcon 2000, the type of private jet chartered by senior executives for business trips

Work out the time wasted at airports, and chartering a plane starts to make sense, says Catherine Chetwynd

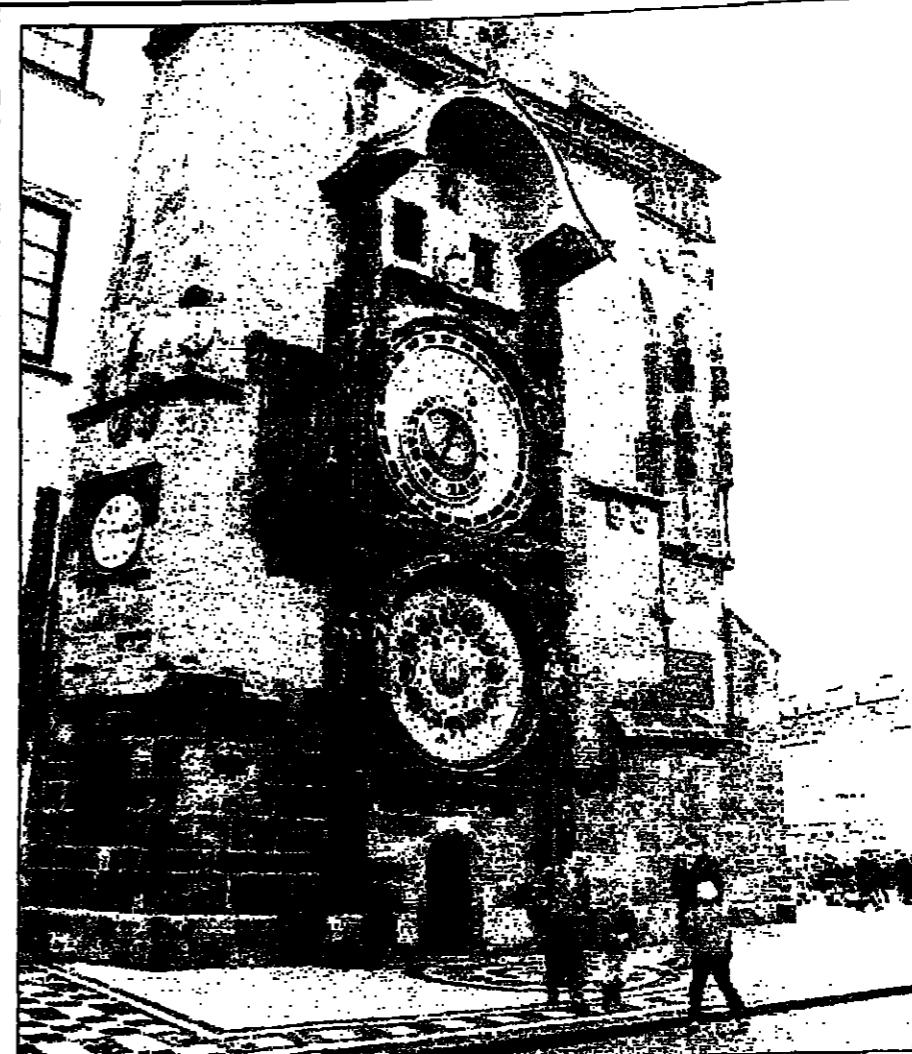
when people have to visit several places in one day," Mr Wylie says. LEA recently met a consultant from a 7.30am flight from Houston to Gatwick and transferred him to London City Airport, from where a car delivered him to the City. He and colleagues departed at noon for a meeting in Rotterdam. The meeting overran and the group did not leave Holland until 8pm, but the consultant still arrived at Gatwick at 9.30pm in time for his 10.30pm departure to Houston. The whole exercise cost £950.

Convenient local departure and arrival points are another strong argument. There may be 200 airports in Europe used by scheduled carriers, but 2,000 are available to executive aircraft.

Image apart, the biggest drawbacks to owning an executive jet are cost and efficiency. Not only is capital investment high, but dedicated aircraft are generally occupied for just 250 hours a year.

The London Jet Share Company may be the answer to this problem. LJS gives organisations the opportunity to own a half or a quarter of a Cessna Citation aircraft. In the event of all partners wanting to travel at once, aircraft will be made available. A quarter share will cost each partner £500,000 and this way, according to Mike Hamlin, managing director, you can make savings of 30 per cent.

LJS has just launched an agreement with American company Net Jets, which has offered the same service in the US for ten years. This will allow co-owners to use their flying entitlement here or in America.



The clock tower in Prague is becoming a familiar sight to British businessmen

Airlines boosted by Eastern trade surge

**Steve Keenan
on the former communist nations with an appetite for air travel**

British exports to Eastern Europe were £1 billion eight years ago. Last year, the figure had quadrupled, resulting in a huge growth in demand for business travel to the region.

Four countries — Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic and Hungary — are among the UK's top 50 export markets. Lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia will mean another surge in trade.

The news that British Airways is to increase services to Eastern Europe next year reflects growing demand for improved access to the former communist-bloc countries.

In July, BA resumed flights to Belgrade, the capital of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with three flights a week. Now BA is to double the frequency to Belgrade for next summer, alongside increased departures to Bucharest, Kiev and Sofia.

British Midland, which already flies to Prague, is also targeting Budapest and Moscow as important routes. The hotel chains have responded, too: Prague, Budapest and Bucharest are bristling with international hotel names.

But the area is not cheap. In a poll of worldwide city hotel rates, Hogg Robinson rates Moscow second behind Tokyo, with average rates of £153.24. In a new booklet for clients, Hogg Robinson points out problems such as an import/export tax and the exorbitant price of telephone calls in Albania.

It is also normal practice for the price of car rental in Russia and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, to include a chauffeur to prevent unwary or lost business travellers from being carjacked.

The pitfalls have not, of course, stopped people going. The number of UK travellers on scheduled airlines to the region grew from £29 million in 1994 to £54 million last year. Russia, the

states, and the consequent trade and cultural links, has encouraged investment in fledgling airlines. The Danish carrier, Maersk, has taken a 66 per cent interest in Estonian Air and will handle its ticketing and sales in the UK from next year. SAS is a 29 per cent shareholder in Air Baltic, one of two airlines in Latvia that serve Gatwick.

Bjarne Hansen, the president of Maersk, said: "We believe the opportunities for Estonian Air are considerable both regionally and on a pan-European basis and we shall be seeking to exploit these fully."

Other carriers such as Lufthansa and Austrian Airlines are looking to maximise their links to Eastern Europe, and this makes good sense for many UK business travellers. They have the choice of flying out of Heathrow or Gatwick with their limited connections — or direct to cities such as Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Frankfurt with their superior networks.

SAS, for example, has 200 flights a week to the Baltic states and Copenhagen is now an important hub to the East. Swissair flies to 17 cities in Eastern Europe from Zurich and Geneva.

But the biggest airline to the Eastern Europe is Lufthansa, which last month launched a marketing campaign to promote its network of 366 weekly flights to 26 cities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The airline claimed 20 per cent of all traffic departing the UK to Eastern Europe last year and expects to carry 55,000 UK travellers east this year. Its main hub airports are Munich and Frankfurt and its busiest routes are Moscow, St Petersburg, Sofia, Zagreb and Prague.

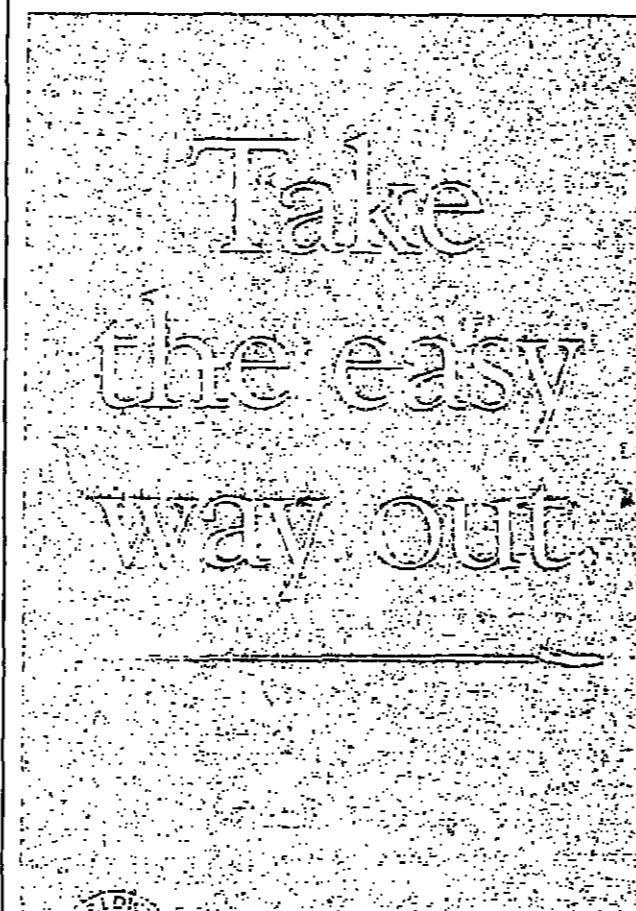
As with hotel and car rental rates, the cost is not cheap. Fares from Western to Eastern Europe rose by 6 per cent in the first quarter of 1996, according to an American Express survey.

Only one airline offers an afternoon departure from London Gatwick to New York

Continental is the only airline with a second flight to New York from London Gatwick, timed to allow you to do a full morning's work in the office before you depart. And as a BusinessFirst flyer you can select a complimentary chauffeur-driven car* or relax in First Class on the Gatwick Express or Thameslink to whisk you to the airport. Contact your travel agent or Continental on 0800 747800. www.flycontinental.com

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The Czech airline, CSA, started a service to Prague from Stansted this year in addition to operating out of Heathrow, while Lot, the Polish airline, increased flights to Warsaw this summer to 16 a week, three via Krakow in Poland.

New national airlines also operate direct from the UK, including Estonian Air, Riga Airlines, Ukraine International Airlines and Croatian Airlines.

All have non-stop flights, which are increasing in number. Estonian Air will have six flights a week from Gatwick to Tallinn this month, up from four a week.

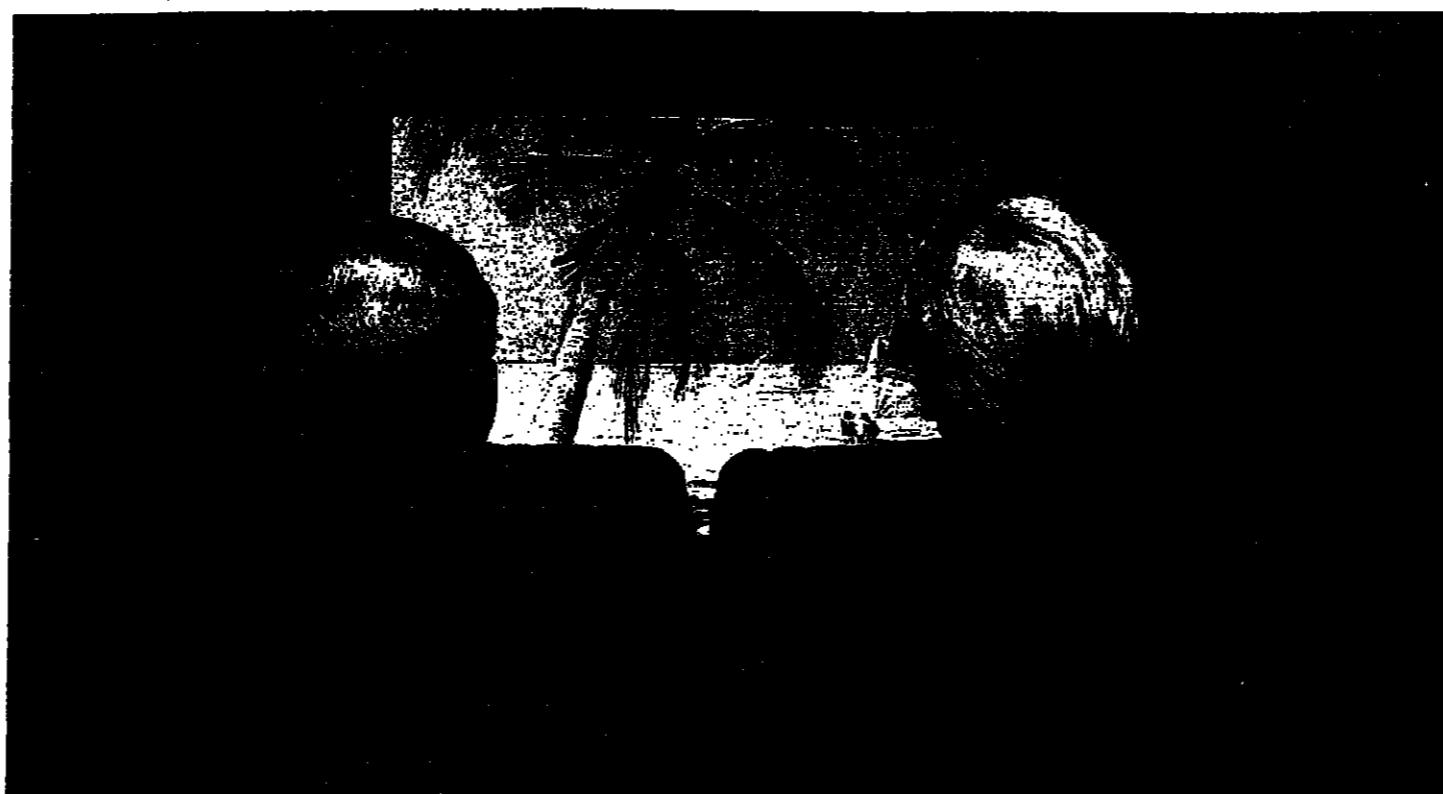
The airline is an example of how the proximity of Scandinavia to the Baltic

7.30am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid

We've got more time for you

7.55pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow

IBERIA



(Before)



(After)



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you to any of our worldwide destinations, fly an airline that offers you a choice. For reservations or more information, call your travel agent or American Airlines on 0171 744 1234 or 0845 844 1234 (Outside London). Or visit the American Airlines web site at <http://www.americanair.com>

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مكتبة الأصل

The gentle approach to policing pensions

John Hayes, head of the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, on the new Pensions Act

What do Arthur Scargill and the Bishop of Oxford have in common? The answer is in the contribution they have made to the law of trusts, which still underpins occupational pensions, at least in England and Wales.

Both argued unsuccessfully before the courts that political or moral considerations could override trustees' duties to obtain the best financial return for their beneficiaries, whether miners or clergymen.

The Pensions Act 1995 is a direct result of Robert Maxwell's abuse of pension funds. (Ironically the Church Commissioners lost more from property speculation.) And trustees are at the heart of the protection of occupational pensions.

At a time when the Government is resisting the movement from Europe for compulsory works councils, it has introduced new domestic law requiring occupational pension schemes to be run nevertheless by trustees, a third of whom must be chosen by the workers. There is an opt-out procedure that can be initiated only by the existing trustees or the employer. In this case the workers still have the last word.

The same legislation produces another relative novelty in our law. It creates a statutory duty on some professional advisers to report to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opri) when they have reasonable cause to believe that the relevant law is being broken or that a breach of trust has been committed, if the breach is likely to be of material significance to Opri.

This is new territory for actuaries. Auditors have had similar duties under the Banking Act but it is understood that they are only rarely used. Failure to do so could lead to disqualification from the right to practise.

Such draconian powers may be regarded as hardly conducive to harmon-

nious relations between advisers and their clients, all struggling to comply with what are basically administrative or financial requirements.

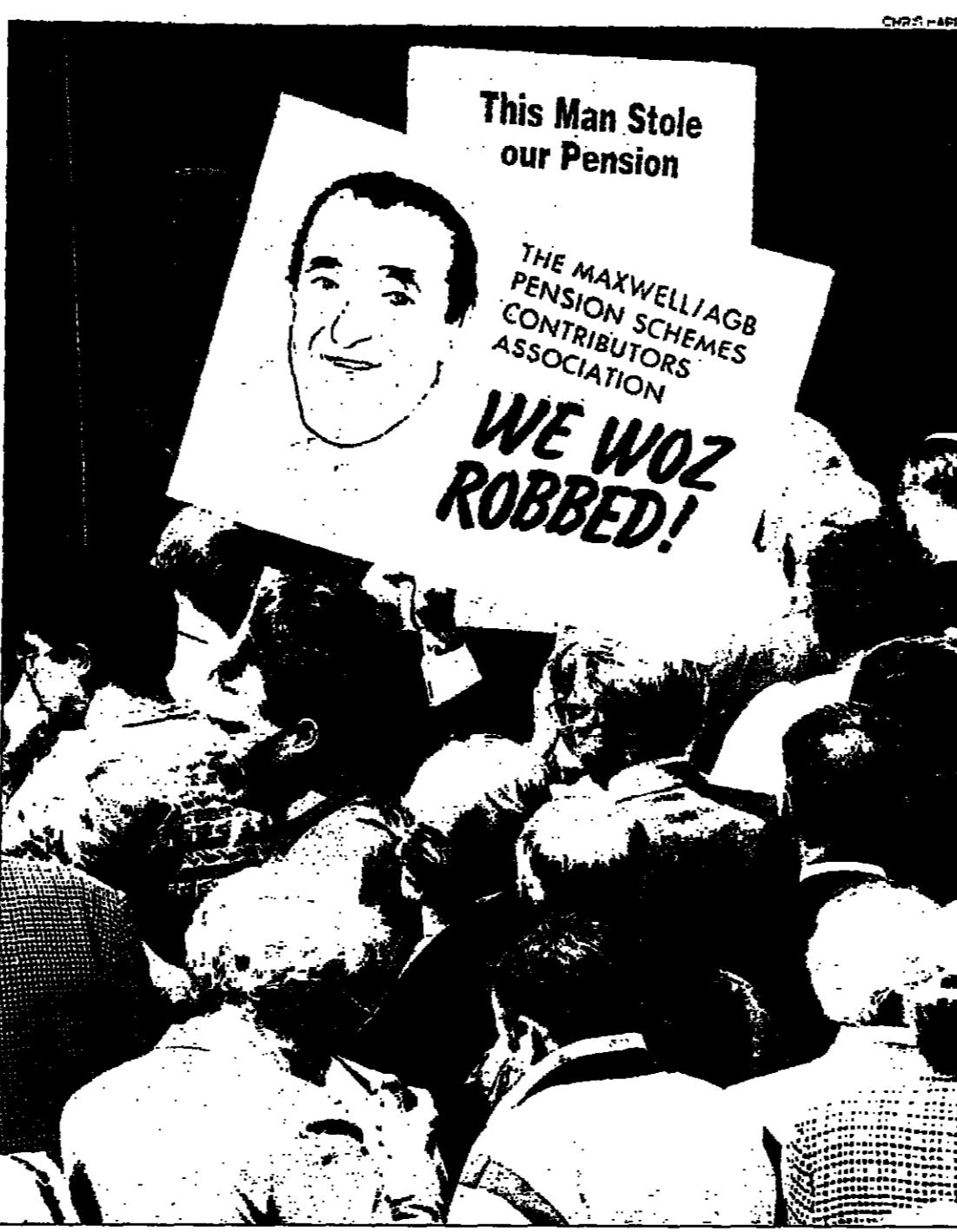
Opri is planning to inject a spirit of openness in which breaches are not treated as an automatic passport to the imposition of financial penalties or other sanctions. Instead, for minor breaches, Opri will be keener on assurances, which will be followed up, than things have been put right.

Unlike most other regulators and enforcement agencies, Opri is given the power to investigate, prosecute and sentence those who breach its rules. The courts will retain the right to quash Opri's decisions on the grounds that it has exceeded its powers or failed to follow the rules of natural justice. Opri will be able to sue in civil courts throughout the United Kingdom to recover pension assets wrongly appropriated.

The Pensions Act creates some offences enforceable by Opri. Opri will have review procedures to enable those aggrieved by its initial decisions to appeal. It will not be bound to grant oral hearings in all cases.

Fairness, expedition and a sense of proportion will all have to be shown if Parliament is not to feel that too much power has been conferred on a single agency. Though Opri is an independent legal entity, much of its affairs are controlled by the Secretary of State for Social Security, even though the bill for its operations, like that of the pensions ombudsman and the new Pensions Compensation Board, will be picked up by employers or pension schemes.

Whether Opri is successful will depend on the sensitivity and competence which it displays. Who knows what disasters are likely when it begins its operational role on April 6, 1997? Good intelligence as well as a certain amount of luck will be essential.



Pensioners who lost money through Robert Maxwell's abuse of their pension funds lobby Parliament

Leaders in pensions

LAW FIRMS are facing a huge upheaval as a result of the Pensions Act. Most of the provisions come into force next April but already firms are reporting a big rise in work, *Frances Gibb* writes.

All the top ten corporate firms have strong departments but according to Chambers & Partners' Directory, Linklaters & Paines and Lovell White Durrant are just ahead. They are closely followed by niche firms Sacker & Partners (boosted by the recent addition of what was Nicholson Graham &

Jones' pensions' team); Nabarro; Rowe & Maw; Freshfields; and Travers Smith Braithwaite. Others who are highly regarded include Aslop Wilkinson. At the Bar, the leading set is said to be Wilberforce Chambers, headed by Edward Nugee, QC. Nicholas Warren, QC, was described as "head and shoulders" above the rest. Robert Ham, QC, and Paul Newman are also highly rated. Others include Michael Hart, QC, of 5 Stone Buildings and Nigel Inglis-Jones, QC, at 35 Essex Street.

Firms brace for industry upheaval

Edward Fennell on the massive changes due with the new Act

Nobody pretends that the pensions business is glamorous or exciting. But as this year's Labour Party conference showed, it is moving up the national agenda. So it is no surprise that this week's annual conference of the Association of Pensions Lawyers in Leeds will be attended by hundreds of keen solicitors. As Ken Dierden, a partner at Freshfields and the chairman of the association, puts it: "It is now acceptable to admit at dinner parties that one is a pensions lawyer."

An indication of the growth in the importance of pension law is the expansion of the association. From a few score members a decade ago, it has grown to 500, and this week's deliberations are expected to be of a high standard. As one speaker comments: "You could make or break your reputation at this event. You are presenting your ideas to an audience of your peers, who are intensively critical. To put in a weak show or make a mistake could be disastrous for one's career."

The backdrop to the conference is the Pensions Act 1995, which comes into force next year. The changes being effected are huge and the association can claim to have had a key role in shaping many of its most important provisions. Taken individually, the pensions industry accepts the good sense of most of these developments. When viewed altogether, though, the effect is to create the need for huge change. As Robert West, of Baker & McKenzie, points out: "There is feeling in the industry that the regulations are too detailed. Some people

make changes. I think that all the leading pensions firms, such as ourselves and Slaughter & May, Freshfields and Sacker & Co, are likely to be affected."

Many of the largest law firms have strong pensions departments as an annex to their normal corporate work. Smaller firms draw in clients specifically because of their pensions expertise. It is anyone's guess at this stage which will do better out of next year's possible shake-out."

Also shaping the Pensions Act are social trends that may affect everyone. A divorced wife will be entitled to a share of her former husband's pension and there is a shift away from occupational pension schemes as fewer employees stay with the same organisation all their working lives and many become self-employed.

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Businesses in the North East have many of Britain's specialist lawyers right on their doorstep. Edward Fennell reports

Shining northern lights

Businesses in the North East are spoilt for choice when it comes to selecting commercial lawyers. It is not just that there are high quality lawyers — almost every region can claim that these days. More important is the fact that there are three legal centres — in Sheffield, Leeds and Newcastle — and there are firms which can claim to be national leaders in specialist fields.

Selecting a single market leader is impossible, especially when Leeds has spawned both Dibb Lupton Alsop and Hammond Saddats, two of the most dynamic firms in Britain. But if you are looking for a firm which is distinctively special, then the prize might be awarded to the Sheffield-based Irwin Mitchell. Under the leadership of Michael Napier, it achieved a remarkable reputation as disaster lawyers *par excellence* and, with Howard Culley as managing partner, that reputation is being sustained.

The firm has achieved notable success in multi-plaintiff work in connection with asbestos and is also the recognised leader in cases of Crotzfeld-Jakob disease. Moreover, the firm has the services of Kevin Robinson, a master of business crime. When Alan Clark blew the whistle in the "arms to Iraq" trial, it was largely as a result of research by Mr Robinson.

In addition to this exceptional

track record in high-profile cases, Irwin Mitchell is also bubbling along in mainstream areas such as property, mergers and acquisitions, commercial litigation and private client work. As Mr Culley says: "We are very buoyant in every department — you can't single out any area which is doing better than the rest."

Irwin Mitchell was rather later in the field than its Yorkshire rivals

You have to keep on developing, or you decline'

on developing, or you decline," he says. "In Norton Rose M5, we must now decide where we are going next. It has either to evolve or decline — I hope it evolves."

Eversheds' local offices, both in Leeds and further north, are demonstrating of how successful a "national" firm can be. Its landmark project is the work it is undertaking for the International Centre for Life, a £54 million initiative being funded by the National Lottery to provide a remarkable tourism and education focus for Tyneside.

The centre will supply a "gene dome, body and mind" facility, as well as a bio science village and it represents the resurgence of the Tyne as a centre for innovation.

Smaller in scale but also significant is work that Eversheds has been doing in the area of private finance initiative (PFI). This is a specialty in which the firm nationally takes pride, and its work with Tynemouth College, which has "Pathfinder" status, and the backing of the Further Education Funding Council illustrates how PFI is starting to produce positive results.

Eversheds also acts for the Tyne & Wear Development Corporation and has snapped up a number of

transactions which, in the past, might have gone down to London.

Perhaps in the most tantalising position is Dickenson Dees. As the largest firm of solicitors in Newcastle, it enjoys a certain distinction. However, Newcastle does not have the commercial muscle to compare with Leeds or Manchester and its remoteness means that there are few pluses it could draw on as natural clients.

However, John Flynn, the business development partner, enjoys the fact that the firm has now gained a national reputation, especially in the field of transport. Britain's second and third largest bus companies are among its clients. It is also doing work for Siemens and Samsung in connection with their inward investment in the area.

Many of the existing smaller family-run Tyneside companies, meanwhile, go to Robert Mackie for their legal advice. Tough and gritty as solicitors, Hugh Welch, the firm's commercial partner, says: "I suspect that we are viewed with suspicion, distrust and even dislike by some of the firms on Tyneside, but we believe in giving clients what they want and for us it has produced results. With increased profits of 170 per cent between 1991 and 1995, we must be doing something right."



Law firms in Leeds have gained national acclaim with exceptionally strong showings in court

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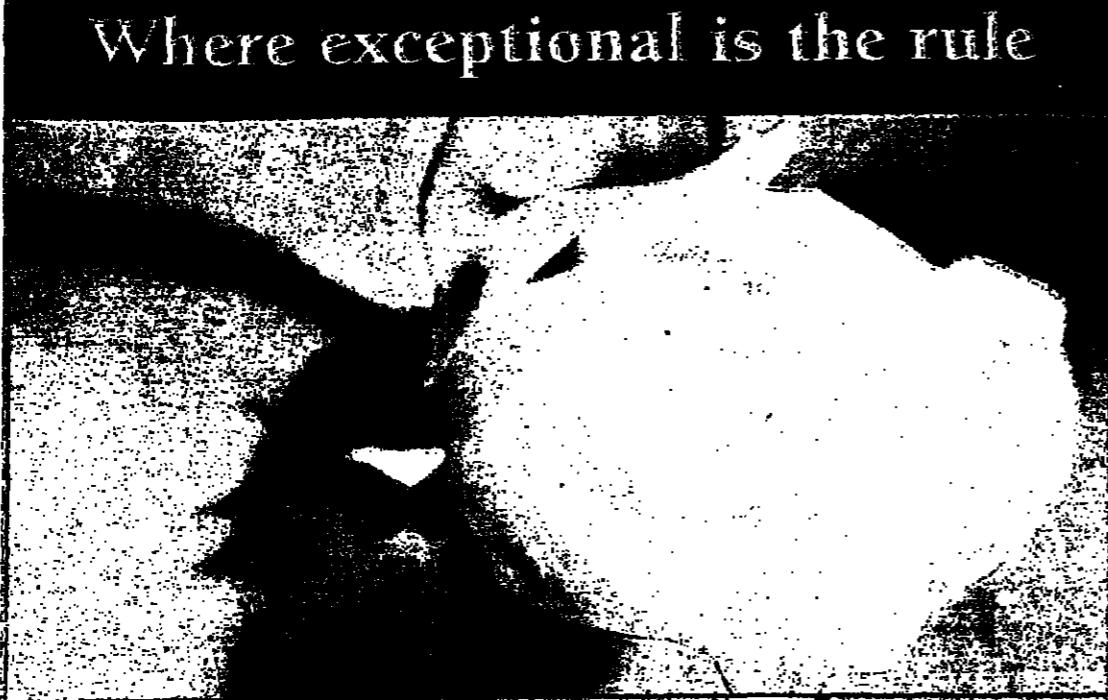
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Ready and waiting for the lights to change



Andrew Longmore on
a driver whose short
cut to the top became a
long and winding road

Most racing drivers face the demons in their sport at some stage of their careers. Rarely does the confrontation occur as starkly or as prematurely as it did for Allan McNish.

McNish was just 20 when his Formula 3000 Lola collided with the Jordan of Emanuele Naspetti and cartwheeled into the crowd in the early laps of the Gold Cup at Donington Park. A week later, bruised and confused, the Scotsman hailed as the next Jackie Stewart attended the funeral of the spectator who was killed in the accident.

Not even sitting at the wheel of a racing car for the first time a month later — and winning the race — required the sort of courage McNish showed that day. "I just thought it was the right thing to do," he said.

Though the process was long and painful, McNish has rationalised the events of April 23, 1990. He cannot really tell you how or exactly where in his mind the images now lie. It is just part of him, part of his story and his life.

"I don't think anyone could go through an event like that and not change, not have their understandings, their life changed in some way and, to be honest, I don't think it would have made any difference whether I was 20, 25 or 55. I had to understand things that some people, thankfully, never have to look at in their lives," he said.

I never again forgot what happened. I don't think anyone should ever forget. You can't just say: 'It hasn't happened' and decompartmentalise it. It was something I didn't understand and I had to think very hard to try to understand it."

McNish's success in coming



McNish can still contemplate a bright future for himself in Formula One, should the right opportunity come along

to terms with tragedy is there for all to see. He talks with dignity and eloquence about the accident, never dropping into cliché or self-pity.

If his mind is older than its 26 years, his face is as young and chipper as when he first gave notice of his talent in Formula Ford nine years ago. British kart champion three times, he won the Vauxhall Lotus series, finished second in the Formula Three championship and was showered with young driver awards. Delightfully, nearly a decade on, he still describes himself as "up and coming".

In a sport where the past tense is invoked with indecent haste, McNish has been up and coming since the day he put on his Marlboro world championship team overalls and took what seemed like the short cut to the summit of Formula One. It has proved a long and winding road and no

end is yet in sight. Marlboro withdrew sponsorship from their development team, McNish found drives and money hard to come by and his accident knocked some of the stuffing out of his youthful ambitions. Worse, the trum-

peted claims became stage whispers. The next Jackie Stewart became the next shooting star, not as good as people thought.

McNish admits that his early progress had been easy, too easy perhaps. He never

had to hustle for a drive. He knocked on doors instead of putting his foot in and leaving it there. Somehow the drivers that his talent deserved never came his way and David Coulthard, another local boy, soon became the next Stewart team. The next Jackie Stewart driving for the last one. That would complete a neat circle.

"All the hype really flowed over my shoulders at the time," McNish said. "I didn't think about it much because I was enjoying my racing too much. I wanted to be in Formula One, still do if the opportunity comes along."

"Formula One has a shorter memory than the public. It's frustrating at times because I could do a stronger job than some drivers on the grid right now, never having raced in Formula One. But it's difficult to try to change the system."

Unless, of course, you have a few million pounds in your back pocket. Brought up in Dumfries, where his father

owns the local BMW franchise, McNish had a comfortable upbringing, but driving was still his living not some expensive hobby.

Ironically, McNish has covered more miles in a Formula One car than most on the grid, testing for McLaren and Benetton. But, unlike Coulthard, or the new world champion, Damon Hill, both Williams test drivers, the dice have yet to fall in his favour.

"I wouldn't say it's all gone wrong," he said, picking his words carefully. "It's not all gone right because drivers I've competed against successfully are in Formula One and I'm not. I don't think I'm a spent force. If I was 36, I'd have to agree that it didn't quite happen for me, but there's a lot out there yet to do."

"At 26, I have got a better understanding of Formula One, of IndyCar racing, of the way life works. I think experience of life helped Damon when he got his chance and it would be the same with me. When I was younger, I was driving on automatic pilot. I happened to be quicker than others, but it just came naturally. I've got more experience now, more technical knowledge and can make better use of the raw speed."

If that sounded like a job plea, no one could blame McNish, who has had tentative offers from Formula One teams but nothing competitive. He is looking to further his career in IndyCar racing, where opportunities abound. He is testing in the United States this week. Two successful years across the Atlantic, then back into a competitive Stewart team. The next Jackie Stewart driving for the last one. That would complete a neat circle.

"A lot of people have said recently that I am due a break. But I don't think anyone is owed anything," McNish said. "Certainly, things have not run for me as well as they could have done, but if I was forced to give up tomorrow I would still be proud of my speed and my ability. I would just be a little disappointed I hadn't been able to show them in the way I felt I could."

TOMORROW

Three years ago, he was a junior tennis champion. Today, he is a student



The fatal collision in which McNish was involved

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ICE HOCKEY

Panthers take action over injury to Olsen

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

OFFICIALS at Nottingham Panthers, angry at the alleged strongarm tactics adopted by Cardiff Devils in their Superleague encounter on Saturday, yesterday took the unusual step of sending a video of the match to the league's disciplinary body.

The Midlands team were particularly concerned about an incident in which Darryl Olsen, their Canadian defenceman, was apparently struck from behind and had to be revived by Jack Hardcastle, the Panthers' president. Olsen was unable to train yesterday.

A Panthers spokesman said: "We hope they [the Superleague] take the necessary action. They have the power to award supplementary penalties."

A total of 145 minutes of disciplinary penalties were handed out during the match in Nottingham, which the Devils won 7-3.

The Devils were unable to maintain their winning form on Sunday, however, going down to a 3-2 home defeat as Manchester Storm recorded their first win in the Superleague.

Sheffield Steelers had a weekend away from Superleague action as they hosted group C of the European Cup. They won all three of their games easily but had to

overcome fierce Cardiff pressure.

Ayr Scottish Eagles, previously unbeaten in 11 league and cup games, found themselves 5-1 behind early in the third period against Bracknell Bees, another team seeking their first Superleague success. They did pull back to 5-3, but a late goal by Chris Brant preserved Bracknell's advantage.

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particularly concerned about an incident in which Darryl Olsen, their Canadian defenceman, was apparently struck from behind and had to be revived by Jack Hardcastle, the Panthers' president. Olsen was unable to train yesterday.

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Animal crackers and beastly behaviour

What does a cassette tape look like when it has lodged in the intestines of a puppy? Well, fans of the cuttings-in-splinters genre could tell you, because *Vets' School* started last night on BBC1, and it's just a wonder nobody thought of it before. Formula-wise, *Vets' School* is an excellent hybrid for popular television: follow the tribulations of nervous students (some will faint); weep for sick puppies and old blind rabbits as mad, must-inkles, thrill to gut surgery in close-up. All it needs additionally is a voice-over from Michael Buerk, and some brave men of the emergency services, and it could be on telly 24 hours a day.

Unintentional comedy is the surprise bonus in *Vets' School*, supplied by a Norwegian student called Trade — a young woman of knock-down prettiness and long blonde plait, whose academic knowledge was cheerfully charac-

terised by her teachers last night as "appalling", and whose attempts to inject a kitten left the poor mewling creature with a neck full of holes. Would her examiners fail her? Ever since the infamous sucking of the Covent Garden box office manager in *The House*, viewers have comfortably watched brutal assessments behind closed doors — in this case, ruthlessly intercut with a confident Trade showing snaps of her family in Norway, all rooting for her from the fjords in funny knitted hats. I watched Trade with an unusual detachment. Should we root for Trade too? Or do we perhaps value kittens' needs too much? Only time will tell.

Meanwhile there were lots of animal stories too, including guinea-pigs called Robson and Jerome. Heidi the golden retriever slipped fast into a mysterious coma, while the puppy with the cassette tape evoked the best projectile weeping

of the evening, when his owner Lisa couldn't afford his operation, and had begged him close with bitts; tears rolling off her nose. Regular readers may remember that during the wildlife vets' series *Back to the Wild*, I commended a little game "Spot the Stiff", to be played each week. Unusually callous, I admit, but on the other hand these programmes are quite cynically calculated to induce tears and cheers — so it's just a bit of bravado to capitalise the manipulation. The stiff this week was the old blind rabbit, and it was awful.

Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* was *Family Feuds*, which I assumed in my innocence would tell true-life stories of silly people no longer speaking to each other because they didn't get equal shares in a Georgian silver teapot. Well, how wrong can you be? Georgian silver teapots were nowhere to be seen in this litany of

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

vious mental cruelty and physical hurt. One couple suffered months of persistent phone calls and hexes — a campaign waged by a disgruntled sister, who ordered pizzas, taxis and removal men at any time of the day or night. This sister, now in prison, was unseen, but it was easy to picture her: sitting on the stairs with phone and ashtray at her elbow and the *Yellow Pages* lying

open and dog-eared in her lap. "Worst of all was the last story, of rough father and son Ken and Sean, from Salford — a story so unpleasant and unprecedented on telly that it was tempting to hope it was all made up. It began with a pony-tailed Ken showing us a picture of baby Sean in his incubator. "If I'd known what he was going to do," said Ken with passion, "I'd have smothered the little bastard." What had Sean done? Had he turned to the bad? Sold drugs, perhaps? A few such ideas flitted through one's head before Sean told us that his dad had actually put out a cigarette on him. Ken told us he would certainly kill Sean himself, if he got the chance — because Sean was a police informer against the Firm, and had transgressed "everything I believed in".

Combating the moral vertigo wasn't easy. Here was a story without tears or cheers, with no place for normal sentiment. Obesity seemed to be the issue, only these people weren't Sicilian. In the good old days before the rift, Sean had made a video of a police informer having his head beaten to a pulp, and Ken showed us that Sean as if it were a pair of baby-shoes so that we could share his feelings of loss. At which point I lost the struggle with moral vertigo and blazed out.

Back with the truly bestial, the three-part drama *Wilderness* (ITV) finished last night with the best possible outcome: a senseless bloodletting, happy wolf loping through remote woods, inadequate Welsh boyfriends killed and broken-down psychopath certified and medicated. He ha ha. Apart from the terrible theme music reminiscent of *Reyes of the Unexpected*, *Wilderness* was a great success, tragi-comic and suspenseful, and

people who complain about the wolf behaving like an Andrex puppy are simply asking too much. Usually I warn dissenters: "Just imagine if Carlton had made it" which shuts them up. But in this case Carlton did make it, so it doesn't have the impact. Meanwhile Amanda Ooms, with her eyes always wet and questioning, and hair on end like Gary Rhodes, has single-handedly revived the figure of the enfant sauvage — and we hadn't even noticed it had gone.

Finally, back in the realm of the resolutely human, the last Mastermind of the series (BBC1) gave the trophy to Richard Starch, a parish priest in nice sandals, who answered questions on Gilbert and Sullivan. In the context of so much rough stuff, it was a little piece of heaven. Ask this nice old gent why someone would call their guinea-pigs Robson and Jerome and he wouldn't know. Well, bless him for that.

BBC2

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (52920)
7.00 BREAKFAST NEWS (Ceefax)
9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Ceefax) (5443844)
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) 23-67979, 9.45 KILROY (s) 21696201
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (37733)
11.00 NEWS and weather (6757673)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (7937367)
11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (1739467)
12.00 NEWS and weather (Ceefax) (7822370)
12.05 NEW! THE FLYING DOCTORS, A new series of medical adventures from Cooper's Crossing (6769370)
12.50pm FANCY THAT! (56851399)
1.00 NEWS and weather (Ceefax) (54080)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (57295283)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Ceefax) (s) (44252405)
2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (s) (2283) 2.00 THE TERRACE (s) (1319) 3.00 INCOGNITO (s) (9599124)
3.40 ROMEO AND REINDEER (5919863)
3.50 POPEYE (s) (Ceefax) (228757)
4.10 OSCAR'S ORCHESTRA (Ceefax) (s) (6966283) 4.35 THE QUEEN'S NOSE (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7684496)
5.00 NEWSROUND (2246979)
5.10 BYKER GROVE. Anna and Flora try to solve another crime (Ceefax) (s) (6335283)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS. Karl and Susan go wild in the country (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6574786)
6.00 NEWS and weather (Ceefax) (844)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (196)
7.00 HOLIDAY. Jill Dando stays with America's most glamorous holiday-makers at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. Kathy Taylor finds a way to spend a weekend at Disneyland Paris for less than £50 per person (Ceefax) (s) (3399)
7.30 EASTENDERS. Pat and Roy share wedding day nerves. Barry is questioned by Phil and Grant and Cindy plans her future (Ceefax) (s) (680)
8.00 SPORTSNIGHT. Live coverage of the first leg of the Uefa Cup second round tie between Ferencvaros of Hungary and Newcastle United. Newcastle's last trophy was in this competition in 1969 and they are looking to repeat that success. Introduced by Desmond Lynam, with Alan Hansen (s) (98278799)
9.55 NEWS, REGIONAL NEWS and weather (225660)
10.25 INSIDE STORY: Karzai's Brothers. A dramatic, real-life tale following the efforts of Karzai's brothers, living in Britain with his wife and child, to rescue the remainder of his family, trapped in a safe haven in northern Iran. Hidden cameras chart his progress (s) (9411931)
11.30 FILM: LE MANS (1971). Filmed in a documentary style, the American racing driver's bid to beat his German rival in the grueling 24-hour race at Le Mans with Steve McQueen, Siegfried Rauch, Elga Andersen and Ronald Leigh-Hunt. Directed by Lee H. Katzenbach (182211)
1.25am WEATHER (2814332)

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6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Duecio: the Rucellai Mademoiselle (7370303) 6.25 The Palazzo Publico, Siena (7328633) 6.50 Spanish Chapel, Florence (9346060)
7.15 SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (Ceefax and signing) (7170269)
7.30 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (4589609) 7.55 BLUE PETER (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8643486) 8.20 FIREMAN SAM (m) (11376592)
8.35 THE RECORD (c) (8092650)
9.20 THE RE COLLECTION (2307221) 9.45 WATCH (178873) 10.00 THE SUNDAYS (458414) 10.30 COME OUTSIDE (120554) 10.45 THE COOKING TODAY (271911) 11.15 CLEMENTINE (9442009) 11.30 GNAU-TV (1399) 12.00 SEE HEAR (42660) 12.30pm WORKING LUNCH (7093) 1.00 TEACHING LUNCH (85860) 1.30 SHOWCASE (5729285) 1.40 HOTCH POTCH HOUSE (4426405)
2.00 FIREMAN SAM (m) (11841354) 2.10 THE FUGITIVE (b/w) (r) (Ceefax) (4970221)
3.00 NEWS (Ceefax) (5326554) 3.05 WESTMINSTER (Ceefax) (s) (4670318) 3.55 NEWS (Ceefax) (5286202)
4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (s) (739) 4.30 READY, STEADY, COOK (b/w) (221) 5.00 THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (s) (910208) 5.40 A WEEK TO REMEMBER (d) (474205) 5.50 LIFELINE (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3762628)
6.00 FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR (r) (s) (669405)
6.25 HEARTBREAK HIGH (Ceefax) (s) (514168)
7.10 THE O-ZONE (r) (s) (212931)
7.30 WE ARE NOT AMUSED (r) (950)
8.00 POUND FOR POUND explores ethical investments (7919)
8.30 ANTONIO CARLUCCIO'S ITALIAN FEAST: Veneto. Carluccio savours the local spics (s) (9196)



The tragedy at Aberfan (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE TIMEWATCH: REMEMBER ABERFAN (Ceefax) (s) (192221)
9.50 TRADE SECRETS. Housekeepers share their cleaning secrets (r) (Ceefax) (s) (718931)
10.00 HANCOCK: The East Cheap Centenary. After nominating himself to organise the festivities, Hancock hits upon several money-making ideas (b/w) (r) (Ceefax) (s) (50689)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (Ceefax) (731115)
11.15 OVER THE EDGE. Harriet Gaze investigates the Outsiders Club, which exists to provide sexual contact for disabled people (Ceefax) (s) (707318)
11.50 HOLIDAY CUTINGS (r) (661955)
12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (45860)
12.30am 6-10.00 THE LEARNING ZONE (2770009)

12.00pm Love Me Tender (1989) (6620) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1988) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1989) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1990) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1991) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1992) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1993) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1994) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1995) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1996) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1997) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1998) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (1999) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (2000) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (2001) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (2002) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (2003) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (2004) (6496) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superman (2005) (6496) 6.00 The New 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**BASEBALL 47**

New York Yankees
power through
to World Series

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

GOLF 49

Jaguar makes
short work of
regional challenge



World champion savours success

Hill settles into new life in the fast lane

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN TOKYO

SPEED clung to Damon Hill yesterday, reluctant to release the new Formula One champion from its giddy grip. The lingering adrenalin from the perfect drive that brought him his first title in Suzuka on Sunday woke him in the early hours of the morning, before a train as sleek and as swift as a bullet bore him here to the capital.

Hill sat with his wife, Georgie, at the front of one of the carriages on the Bullet Train as it hurtled along at more than 160mph. For much of the two-hour journey he signed autographs for excited fans, accepted the congratulations of passing passengers and endured television and media interviews.

He was surrounded by officials from his Williams team and their main sponsors, Rothmans, who were shepherding him through his first engagement as the world champion. Once or twice he wandered a few rows further down the carriage, which was packed with dozing businessmen, to speak to Murray Walker, the motor racing commentator.

Even when Hill got here, things would not slow down. He was ushered from Tokyo Central station, through heavy traffic and pouring rain, straight to the Reuters building for a solid afternoon of television interviews. GMTV, the BBC and ITN were all queuing for slots alongside other stations from all over the world.

It was not until after 7pm that Hill was able to check in at his hotel in the Shinjuku district and attempt to relax. At least the building was so tall and the weather so bad that a room on the 47th floor ensured he was able to keep his head in the clouds for one more night before the journey home to England today.



Schumacher singing

ished third in the championship behind Hill and his Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, appeared to be playing his part with relish.

Hill was still acting like a live-wire on the train despite the remnants of a hangover and the constant attention, still letting the realisation that he was world champion sink dreamily into his soul.

"It is irreversible," he said. "That is the thing. There is no way anyone can undo my achievement. It is done. It is such an enormous relief to have crossed over the threshold and to have joined the very, very few who have become world champion. It is a relief that all the hard work is over, all the effort to keep your mind working in the right way. It is the same relief anyone feels when they know they are going to get a break for a while."

"It is as though someone has taken a brake off my brain and now I can relax for the first time in such a long time and just be normal. Even more than relief, though, the sense of triumph is overwhelming. It was what I so wanted to do and I have achieved it. It is very satisfying."

Hill will take a break from motor racing for a month, spending time with his family in Dublin and taking them on holiday. He will then start his driving duties for the TWR Arrows team he joined after the surprising decision by Frank Williams, the Williams team manager, to release him after this year.

"I am not thinking about jobs that lie ahead really, though," Hill said. "I am just drinking it all in at the moment. I am taking a rest from setting myself goals for a while. I am not considering anything other than what I have just done and what I have achieved. I am going to enjoy that even though I am one of those mad people who cannot relax for too long. I start worrying if I am not doing anything."

An FA spokesman said that the disciplinary panel had made contact with the police before issuing a misconduct charge. It is unlikely to hear

the case before the police have finished their own investigations and passed on those findings to the Crown Prosecution Service, who will decide whether to charge Bosnich with a public order offence.

Scotland Yard is annoyed at suggestions that action by the FA was ever an alternative to their own procedure. "I can assure people that we are continuing to investigate thoroughly," a Yard spokesman said. Bosnich could be questioned by police for a second time, having been interviewed, along with Little, immediately after the game, which Villa lost 1-0.

Bosnich, booked by the referee, Peter Jones, for ungentlemanly conduct, reaffirmed his sorrow yesterday and continued to maintain that his gesture was a "split-second prank", an imitation of Basil Fawlty, that backfired.

He said that he was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish links and said: "You can call it a moment of madness if you like. Anti-Semitism and racism are crimes against humanity; ignorance and jocularity are not. You can accuse me of making a bad taste joke but anything else I think is very, very harsh."

Bosnich is clearly conducting a damage limitation exercise. He pointed out that he has a Jewish aunt himself and has previously spoken of the way he was persecuted as a child in Australia because of his Croatian background.

"I lost family in the Second

Newcastle's fears 48
Money-go-round 48
High-flying Dodds 48

Holdings, has been approached by two Premiership clubs since his attempt to take over Nottingham Forest at a cost of £30 million became public at the weekend.

Bovey, 35, met the Forest chairman, Fred Reacher, and his fellow directors in London last week. However, Keith Gibson, one of those directors, said that he did not feel the club "would be progressing" with a man who was raised a few miles out of the city and watched his first football from the old terraces on the Trent End at the City Ground.

Bovey said: "If they decide they would rather go forward with somebody else then fine. Football is moving very quickly and on the back of the publicity, two clubs have been in touch because they thought I might be in a position to invest in them. But I would not have approached anybody except Forest."

Sheffield Wednesday yesterday completed the signing of Benito Carbone, the midfield player from Internazionale, for £3 million. The fee is a record for the club.

Carbone has few qualms about inheriting Chris Waddle's No 8 shirt. "I'm not worried by that prospect at all," he said. "I'm not aware of how famous a player he was with Wednesday. All I know is how famous Diego Maradona was at Napoli when I took over his No 10 shirt. Then at Inter, I took over the No 10 shirt again — this time from Dennis Bergkamp."

Carbone's arrival means that David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, has spent nearly £7 million this summer, totally revamping the side. Carbone's transfer sets a record after the £2.75 million previously paid by Trevor Francis for Des Walker and Andy Sinton.

Pleat's previous highest signing was Andy Booth for £2.65 million from Huddersfield Town in the summer. Carbone will fit into midfield alongside Orlando Trustfull and Mark Pembroke, with Regi Blinker on the other wing. Pleat hopes to have the forms complete in time to face Blackburn Rovers at Hillsborough on Saturday.

FA charges Bosnich with misconduct

BY RICHARD HOBSON
AND PETER BALL

MARK BOSNICH, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association after his Nazi-style salute to Tottenham Hotspur supporters during the FA Carling Premiership game at White Hart Lane last Saturday, and could also face criminal charges as police investigations continue.

Bosnich, 24, issued an open statement of regret through his agent yesterday morning addressed to "anyone offended, hurt or dumbfounded" and spent the rest of the day torn between bewilderment and contrition. The only good news came when Brian Little, the Villa manager, said that his place in the team was not in jeopardy as a result of the gesture. That is not to say, however, that he will escape Fawlty's backfire.

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Bosnich is clearly conducting a damage limitation exercise. He pointed out that he has a Jewish aunt himself and has previously spoken of the way he was persecuted as a child in Australia because of his Croatian background.

"I lost family in the Second

World War and in the recent war in Yugoslavia," he added. He said he regretted what he sees as the widening gulf between players and supporters. He made the gesture as a way of acknowledging cries of "One Jürgen Klinsmann" from Tottenham supporters, a reference to a game two seasons ago when he was involved in a collision with the German striker, then a Tottenham player.

Grant Bovey, head of Cruise Holdings, has been approached by two Premiership clubs since his attempt to take over Nottingham Forest at a cost of £30 million became public at the weekend.

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Inter set to contest Ince's ban

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

INTERNAZIONALE are to appeal against the suspension received by Paul Ince, the England midfield player, who was sent off at the weekend after being subjected to racist abuse.

The trouble started when Gianpietro Piovani, the Placentia defender, went over to Ince and shouted racial abuse at him as they waited for a corner.

Ince responded by touching Piovani lightly on the shoulder and his opponent, who has since admitted feigning injury, dropped to the ground.

Ince will now be given either a one or two-match ban, but Inter can appeal against the verdict before the disciplinary committee on Friday.

A spokeswoman for Inter said: "Our lawyers are now preparing an appeal to the disciplinary committee." Massimo Moratti, the club president, hopes Ince's case will not even get that far. He told the *Gazzetta dello Sport*: "I hope that he will be cleared by sporting judiciary. I hope there will be an amnesty for an offence which was never committed."

The selectors are doing what they feel is best for South African rugby," Luyi said. "Their motives are honest and genuine and to suggest anything else is appalling." But the heat is now on Markgraaff: he has a golden era in Springbok rugby hanging over him like a cloud and if he cannot find playing success and swiftly, he could be the next casualty.

Ince, who was subjected to racial abuse from the crowd against Cremonese last season, was furious about the incident. "I didn't do anything wrong, and I'm really angry with Piovani, because first he insulted me and afterwards he made a real scene," he said.

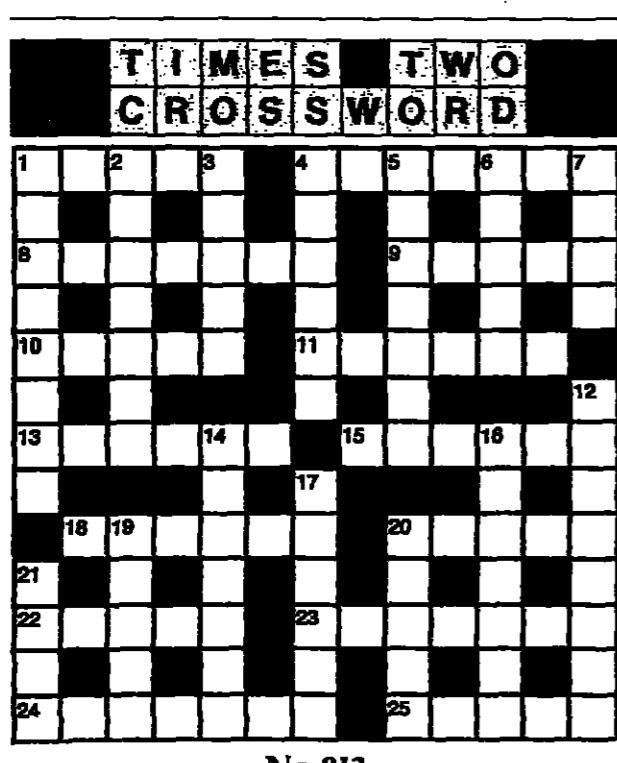
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No 913

ACROSS: 1 Vulgarly cheeky, assertive (5); 4 Harsh, bitter (manner) (7); 5 Meet (requirements) (7); 9 Customary (5); 10 Bearskin (5); 11 Disorderly (6); 13,15 Common language (6,6); 18 Hackneyed phrase (6); 20 Judge finally address jury (5,2); 22 Small weight; big cat (5); 23 When eg school on show to public (4,3); 24 Similar, related (7); 25 Happen again (5); **SOLUTION TO NO 912:** ACROSS: 1 Judge 3 Decrepit 9 Vouch 10 Bubbles 11 Nullify 12 Imam 14 Locate 16 Adjoin 18 Pole 19 Manager 22 Absolve 23 Sward 24 Slidster 25 Peer DOWN: 1 Juvenile 2 Double-crossed 4 Embryo 5 Rebuild 6 Pull a long face 7 Test 8 Thai 13 Intruder 15 Trellis 17 Impede 20 Nash 21 Bass

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Pienaar omitted

Fayers banned, page 47
All Black power, page 47

كذا من الأصل

Make no mistake, the 20 European Union Commissioners are the people who really call the shots in Britain.

We are much further down the road to being part of a federal European super-state, governed by unelected officials in Brussels, than most people realise.

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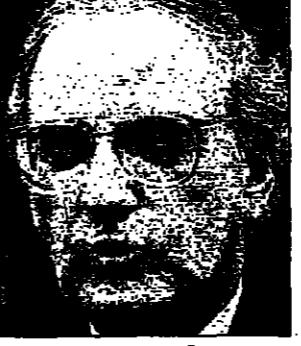
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Changing the guard for a second Clinton reign

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

TWO of President Clinton's top advisers, George Stephanopoulos and the Defence Secretary, William Perry, yesterday disclosed that they might not serve in a second Clinton Administration. A host of other senior officials, including the US Ambassadors to London and Paris, are also expected to leave if the President wins re-election.

Mr Stephanopoulos, who is 35 and the last survivor of Mr Clinton's 1992 campaign team, told *New Yorker* magazine that after five tough years at Mr Clinton's side he was burnt out. "I've had a great run, a great ride, but it feels like I'm done. It's not that I'm above it, but I can't do it any more. I just have to grow up."



Madeleine Albright wants to be Secretary of State, but George Mitchell would also like the post

Mr Perry, who is 69, told *The Wall Street Journal* he was profoundly ambivalent about his job and may leave before the year is out, although he insisted: "I haven't decided".

Mr Perry is widely respected and has calmed the Pentagon following Les Aspin's short tempestuous reign, but has recently faced harsh criticism over the terrorist attack that killed 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia, the American response to Iraqi provocations, and the disclosure that troops would remain in Bosnia beyond December's deadline.

Warren Christopher, 70, the Secretary of State, is also expected to depart, further disrupting Mr Clinton's foreign policy team. Mr Christopher calls such speculation premature, but he is tired, his

dream of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement is fading, and his wife wants to return to California. Last week he broke James Baker's record as America's most travelled Secretary of State. Madeleine

Albright, the United Nations Ambassador, is pressing hard to succeed him. She is thought to have Hillary Clinton's support and Mr Clinton would love to appoint America's first female Secretary of State, but

there is resistance within the State Department.

Other contenders would be George Mitchell, presently Mr Clinton's emissary to Northern Ireland. Senators Sam Nunn, Chris Dodd or

Richard Lugar, Tony Lake, the National Security Adviser, and Thomas Pickering, the former Ambassador to Russia. Richard Holbrooke, architect of the Bosnian peace accord, is often mentioned but he is a

great self-promoter and poor team player. Strobe Talbott, Mr Christopher's deputy, would face confirmation problems unless the Democrats won the Senate and would more likely replace Mr Lake if he left the White House.

Admiral William Crowe, the US Ambassador in London, was unavailable yesterday, but officials in Washington expect him to leave early next year, if only because his wife is ill. Tom Foley, the former House Speaker, and noted Anglophile, would be an obvious choice to succeed him.

Pamela Harriman, US Ambassador in Paris, has equivocated since telling *The Washington Post* last April that "I've had enough", but officials expect she would return. Jean Kennedy Smith, the controversial US Ambassador

Jester Gingrich plays politics of pantomime

FROM IAN BRODIE IN ATLANTA



ELECTION '96

NEWT GINGRICH cuts a tragicomic figure as he traipses around his constituency on the outskirts of Atlanta, brandishing a plastic bucket.

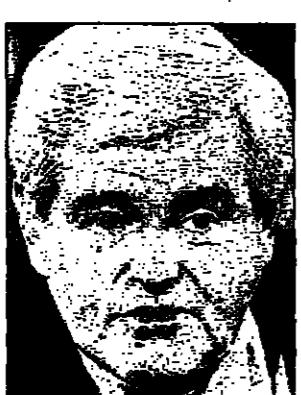
The chubby Speaker of the House of Representatives, and erstwhile leader of the Republican "revolution", has a diminished role in this year's election, other than as the butt of Democrats' stings.

He lugs the bucket everywhere. Between stops it sits beside him in his minivan. This pantomime prop is a memento from his glory days two years ago when "Newt's army" of Republicans wrested control of the House from Democrats after 40 years.

He promptly cancelled twice-daily deliveries of buckets of ice to every House member. The service employed 14, cost \$500,000 and had survived the invention of refrigerators for 80 years. "Here is a symbol of how we stopped the Democrats wasting your money," Mr Gingrich said, plunking his bucket on the lectern at a fund-raiser.

If only his *Contract With America* had been as simple. As it was, he ran into interference from President Clinton and intransigence from other Republicans. Parts of his plan passed, including welfare reform. Other ideas foundered, among them a balanced budget amendment to the American Constitution.

True, Washington embraced the Gingrich mantra



Gingrich: a pariah even among Republicans

California puts Dole team in disarray

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, his wife Elizabeth and his running-mate Jack Kemp descended on California yesterday with the Republican campaign strategy for one of the most crucial electoral states in disarray.

Mr Dole, who faces President Clinton in the second and final presidential debate tomorrow in San Diego, southern California, is reported to be considering an eleven-hour blitz on the Golden State. That would scotch persistent rumours that he is planning to abandon California, where he lags heavily in the polls; but it would drain millions of dollars from his campaign in other important states where he stands more chance of winning.

As the presidential race enters its last three weeks, Mr Dole, who continues to trail the President by double-digit margins in most polls, is wavering over the central planks of his strategy, including whether to criticise Mr Clinton's morals and where to deploy limited resources.

California offers a fifth of the electoral college votes needed for victory and Mr Clinton's campaign throughout has regarded it as a cornerstone of its electoral strategy. The state has a reputation for being harsh on candidates who neglect it and Mr Clinton has swamped it with attention, visiting 29 times in four years.

Republican advisers say they are taking encouragement from Friday's respected Field Institute poll, which indicated that Mr Clinton's lead in California had narrowed by four percentage points, to ten points. Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, has also been urging Mr Dole not to write off California.

However, Dole aides are saying in private that money and attention are now being focused as much on those areas where congressional candidates need help as on those where Mr Dole himself can reasonably hope to win.



Mordechai Vanunu's message to the media outside a Jerusalem court explaining his kidnapping by Mossad in 1986

Ten years on, Israel's nuclear whistle blower stays defiant

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEL AVIV

AFTER spending 3,662 days in solitary confinement, the longest recently endured by any prisoner in the Western world, Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli technician who revealed Israel's nuclear secrets to *The Sunday Times*, remains defiant.

Yesterday a truncated message to the outside world from the man who, at his last supreme court appearance in December was forced to wear a mask to prevent him speaking to the media, was read to the first international conference of his supporters by Susannah York, the actress.

In words dictated to one of his brothers before prison authorities could intervene and return him to the tiny cell

which has been his home since his kidnapping in 1986, Vanunu — who on Sunday marked his forty-second birthday — said: "I thank you all. I am happy for revealing what I revealed."

Ten years ago this month his story, carried across three pages of *The Sunday Times*, disclosed that Israel had a nuclear arsenal of between 100-200 warheads, which has still never been admitted publicly and makes it the world's sixth nuclear power. The information has never been debated by the Israeli parliament and remains a non-subject in the Israeli media.

The two-day conference, shunned by a number of Israeli universities but eventually

staged at a beachfront hotel amid the uncomfortable presence of secret service agents, was the biggest boost yet for Vanunu's hopes of securing release before 2004. Campaigners from around the world listened to details of his kidnapping by Mossad and his deteriorating mental state, including growing paranoia.

Among the many calls for his release was one from Anthony Grey, the former Reuter correspondent turned best-selling novelist.

"Having spent two years in solitary as a hostage in China, the heart quails at how a man can endure five times that period," he wrote. "Here is a man of great courage."

The gathering was staged

less than 20 miles from the seaside home of the blonde agent codenamed "Cindy" who lured Vanunu into a trap by tempting him to fly from London to Rome. There he was drugged and later smuggled by sea to Israel.

The meeting was hailed by Joseph Rotblat, 87, winner of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize.

He argued that Vanunu was a

"whistle-blower", not a spy or traitor.

Haaretz, Israel's leading broadsheet, carried a front-page commentary backing Vanunu's release.

An enlarged photograph at the conference showed the message scrawled on Vanunu's palm outside a Jerusalem court that told the world of his kidnapping.

Mother to defend dissident son in trial

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

THE mother of Wang Dan, the Chinese dissident once named by China as its "most wanted" counter-revolutionary, is to defend her son in a coming trial at which he could be sentenced to death for allegedly attempting to overthrow the Government.

The action she is taking is unique in China's legal history. Mrs Wang Lingyun, 61, speaking on the phone yesterday from Peking, said her 26-year-old son wanted her to defend him, alongside his other lawyer. Mrs Wang believes the trial will begin this week. She will defend him against the charge that he had collaborated with foreign subversive elements, which she says amounts to no more than doing a correspondence course at the University of California.

Mr Wang's main lawyer will concentrate on the other charges against him, such as collaborating with internal counter-revolutionaries such as Wei Jingheng, a nominee for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Wei is presently serving a 14-year sentence; this was imposed two years after he completed nearly 15 years of a previous term.

Mr Wang, a student leader during the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989, was soon afterwards placed on top of the "most wanted" list. He served four years in prison, followed by constant detentions, until his disappearance into police custody 17 months ago. His parents say they have neither spoken to him since his detention, nor do they know where he is being held.

Mr Wang's trial comes just after last week's jailing of Liu Xiaobo, another Tiananmen veteran, for three years at a labour camp. In late September Liu had written a pamphlet with Wang Xizhe — another veteran dissident, who surfaced in Hong Kong over the weekend and was expected to fly to the United States last night — calling for the impeachment of President Jiang Zemin.

The imprisonment of nearly all dissidents presents President Clinton with a problem. He has maintained for a year that Communist China is more likely to treat dissidents better if Washington abandoned its threats of sanctions.



Wang Xizhe: smuggled out to Hong Kong

Thatcherite conversion ends ANC vision of road to socialism

WHEN the African National Congress took power in South Africa it was no secret that many of its most influential supporters — especially the Communist Party and the trade unions — saw its triumph as a stepping stone to full-blown socialism.

The crucial vehicle in this transformation was to be the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) — a massive exercise in state welfare and redistribution that was the heart of the ANC's 1994 election campaign. Officially, at least, this terminology still applies. The country is undergoing what is referred to as "the national democratic revolution" when the task of true progressivism is to concert with the "patriotic bourgeoisie" against international capital, most egregiously represented

President Mandela's strategy to produce 6 per cent growth and 400,000 jobs a year in South Africa is foundering. R. W. Johnson writes in Johannesburg

ed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Under the urgings of Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, the RDP has been shelved, indeed almost killed off. It is clear that virtually all the RDP targets will be missed by a mile, the programme's office has been shut down and in practice the Mandela Government has simply lacked the administrative ability to spend the money allocated to the RDP.

More strikingly, though, the Government has quietly undergone

a conversion to Thatcherite economics. Inflation of about 8 per cent is being mercilessly squeezed down by one of the world's highest real interest rates — most homeowners are paying 18 per cent or more on their mortgages. The Government's macro-economic strategy, backed by the IMF and by Germany and Britain, calls for a draconian cut in the budget deficit from 6 per cent of gross domestic product to 3 per cent, a sweeping privatisation programme and the reduction of labour market inflexi-

bilities. To the growing chorus of discontent that this strategy has provoked, Mr Mbeki has even borrowed Thatcher's famous line: "There is no alternative."

The moment of truth lies just ahead with the March 1997 budget which must, according to Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister, see the budget deficit cut to 4 per cent. The Government's Financial and Fiscal Commission is aghast to discover that once non-discretionary items are discounted, this will imply a 7 per cent cut in the expenditure of regional governments and a whopping 17 per cent cut in the expenditure of central government departments — with, of course, a further large reduction due thereafter if the 3 per cent deficit target is to be achieved.

Just how tough this is best realised by watching the puffing and panting of European Union states to get down to the same 3 per cent deficit and 60 per cent debt ceiling laid down by Maastricht. South Africa, with far less fat to cut, is in effect aiming to meet the Maastricht criteria by 2000, although it has no EU to join.

The mood within the Finance Ministry as the possible cuts are reviewed is said to be tense, even panicky, for there is no doubt that the political reaction to austerity on this scale will be hugely unpopular with the ANC electorate. News that the Government has just taken its first loan from the World Bank, ironically, spurred criticism on the Left but this will be nothing if, as seems certain, the unions face

large public-sector job cuts in the next budget and the Government eventually has to seek IMF support to sustain the rand when it finally abandons exchange controls.

One has to admire the Government's courage in embarking on an economic policy so markedly different from anything that any other African regime has started life with. Mr Mbeki has placed his hopes on the bet that the new strategy will produce 6 per cent growth and 400,000 jobs a year by 2000.

The problem is that if the Government pushes ahead with its strategy, huge unpopularity is bound to follow. But if it backs away as the strategy's true costs become clear, it risks a further collapse in investor confidence and the value of the rand.



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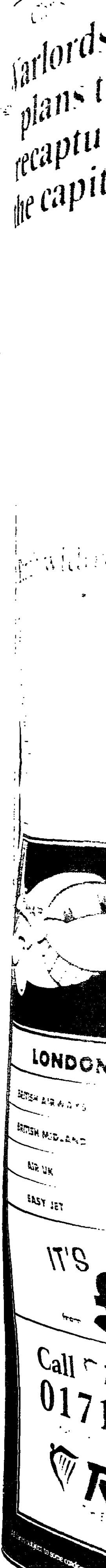
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Christopher Thomas reports from Kabul as Taliban's vital supply line is cut

Warlords lay plans to recapture the capital

FORCES opposing Taliban met in the strategic Salang Pass yesterday to discuss moving south to capture Kabul, Afghanistan's capital. Their two top commanders met in jubilant mood at a spot surrounded by the snow-covered Hindu Kush mountains.

The anti-Taliban forces have consolidated their hold on the important towns of Jabal os-Siraj and Charikar, a few hours' drive north of Kabul. This puts them within striking distance of the capital and has denied the Islamic warriors, who captured the city on September 27, a vital supply line to their forward positions.

General Ahmed Shah Massoud, the defence chief of the ousted Government, met General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord who controls six northern provinces, for talks. General Dostum, who yesterday recognised Afghanistan's ousted Government, has massive amounts of armaments, including fighter aircraft. He has close relations

with the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, which supplies much of his equipment.

General Dostum's forces have not been directly involved in the counter-offensive so far. There was small-arms fighting last night less than ten miles north of Kabul, mostly in a battle for control of the important Bagram military airbase.

General Said Jaffer Naderi, a senior member of General Dostum's forces, said his backing so far had been logistical. "This meeting is to decide the future — what we will do together. Working together is the only way to defend Afghanistan."

He added that it was hoped to take Kabul by negotiation, but hinted at an offensive if such tactics failed.

Taliban insisted last night that it retained control of Bagram airbase and that Kabul was too heavily fortified to fall. It is making the presumption that General Masood will not attack Kabul with shells and rockets because of the



A Taliban fighter with a machine gun prepares to leave Kabul for a frontline position as Islamic warriors lost more ground to ousted government forces

inevitable civilian casualties.

General Masood has said that he withdrew from the city to save it from shelling by Taliban.

General Masood, whose Tajik forces are centred on the Panjshir Valley 40 miles north of Kabul, has again demonstrated his prowess as a guerrilla fighter. In the 1980s he was a hero of the war against the Soviet Union, which never

conquered the valley or flushed General Masood out of it, despite carpet-bombing and landing thousands of paratroops, most of whom perished.

Tajik civilians flocked to join his army yesterday. They are fired with the thought of marching back into Kabul, which General Masood seized in April 1992 from the former Communist Government of

President Najibullah, who Taliban hanged last month after seizing him from a United Nations compound.

General Dostum's forces occupied strategic positions around Charikar and Jabal os-Siraj yesterday. If the two armies jointly attack they could probably drive Taliban out of the capital, but civilian losses probably would be high. General Dostum reiter-

ated last night that he would prefer to take Kabul by negotiation.

Taliban said yesterday that it was ready for peace talks with General Dostum, but that negotiations with General Masood were out of the question.

This will not satisfy international aid agencies, whose work is being severely disrupted because of the absence of women to implement some of their projects.

WORLD SUMMARY

Kurdish rebels advance

NICOSIA: Iraqi Kurds opposed to Baghdad made further gains yesterday after recapturing their stronghold of Sulaimaniya on Sunday but said they would not attempt to retake the key city of Arbil as it was ringed by Iraqi tanks (Michael Theodoulou writes).

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan forces were reported to have fought to within 25 miles of Arbil, from which they were ousted in August by the Kurdish Democratic Party.

UN condemns Cyprus killing

NICOSIA: The United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus condemned the shooting of Petros Kakoulis, a Greek Cypriot who strayed into Turkish-held territory on Sunday (Michael Theodoulou writes). The UN said the killing was a "deplorable and unnecessary use of lethal force".

Court overturns scarf expulsions

GRENoble: A court here has overturned the expulsion by two French schools in 1994 of seven Muslim schoolgirls for refusing to take off traditional headscarves in class, judicial officials said. The expulsions had caused widespread anger among France's three million Muslims. (AFP)

Children's scrap sparks gunfire

CAIRO: A squabble between two small children in south Egypt led to a clash with machine-guns between their Coptic Christian and Muslim families, wounding 20 people including their fathers, police said. Police arrested 15 people who took part in the fighting. (AFP)

It's a snip

BLENHEIM, NEW ZEALAND: A mother of six made a successful £147 bid for a vasectomy for her husband at a charity auction in this South Island town, the New Zealand Press Association reported. (Reuters)

Pariah widows bear brunt of city's despair

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

"My husband's family threw me out: they could not feed me or my children"

AFGHANISTAN'S 30,000 war widows are despised. Their families throw them out, there is no hope of remarriage, their malnourished children must scavenge. And now, banned from working, many are on the edge of starvation.

Widows, who are often blamed for their husbands' deaths — they failed to pray hard enough for their safety — are the greatest victims of Taliban's ban on female employment. Many are squatters in bombed-out houses that cling to the rocky hills surrounding the capital, a subculture of Afghanistan's most desperate and isolated people. "We are no better than dogs," Farzana, about 25, says.

Before the Taliban Islamic militia captured Kabul last month, Farzana worked in a project run by Care International, teaching women how to

knit. She earned enough to feed herself and her two children, aged six and four, but now she must stay at home and ponder a desperate future.

Her husband was killed in a rocket attack on Kabul four years ago and since then she has lived from her knitting skills. Now she cannot even work from home because Care does not have any Afghan women employees to deliver wool. A man would not be allowed to deliver supplies under Taliban's strict segregation rules.

War widows, who have an average of four to five children, live alone or with groups of other widows, such is their pariah status. Many are beggars, sitting silently hour after hour at the entrances of mosques, wrapped in a

husband's extended family, but such charity is impossible now that Afghans are all but penniless.

The Kabul office of Action Contre la Faim says half the city's 290,000 children aged under five are stunted. More than 23,000 are acutely or severely malnourished.

Diljan, 31, widowed three years ago in a rocket attack on the capital, said she was too frightened to go on the street because she might be beaten up by Taliban soldiers for leaving her home. "I am bitter," she said. "My husband's family threw me out because they could not feed me or my children." Her son, 11, works in the bazaar, supplying the family's only income. Like all Afghan women, she moved in with her husband's family after marriage and rarely left the house. She is illiterate, like all but 1 or 2 per cent of Afghan women.

Refugee families flee to Pakistan

From REUTER IN PESHAWAR

AT LEAST 10,000 Afghans have fled to Pakistan since the capture of Kabul by Taliban, a United Nations official said yesterday.

"About 9,000 to 10,000 people have come to the Nasir Bagh camp on the outskirts of Peshawar," Anoush Daneshwar, deputy head of mission for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said in Islamabad. "The real figure is much higher because many people go and stay with their relatives and are not registered by UNHCR or the Pakistani authorities."

Mr Daneshwar said 50 to 70

families a day had been heading east from Kabul in the past week, but described this as normal for the time of year, when many people move to the eastern city of Jalalabad to escape the harsh Kabul winter. But Taliban forces have intervened to stop men from taking families or household goods with them.

□ **DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN:** Six Islamic rebels were killed in clashes with Russian troops while trying to cross the border from Afghanistan and a soldier died when a Tajik army unit was attacked, according to officials. (AP)

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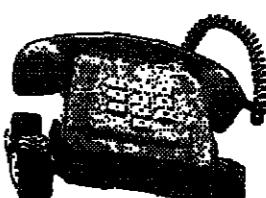
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John Major and the inevitability of appeasement

Alan Clark compares the Prime Minister to Neville Chamberlain

John Major wound up his best electoral performance since the 1992 campaign — the “informal” question and answer session on the stage at Bournemouth on Wednesday — with the assurance: “Next year... same time, same place.” Whether or not this undertaking can be met remains to be seen. Certainly it looks less unlikely than a week ago.

But I think it is no longer premature to essay a preliminary look at Mr Major’s place in history. And, in particular, by a comparison with that of Neville Chamberlain, whose name — to the surprise of many at the time (five years ago) — Mr Major offered when asked to identify which of his predecessors he most admired.

Leaving aside for the moment their domestic achievements, there are remarkable similarities to their predicament. Each was faced with the problem of a European force which was rapidly growing in economic/military power and becoming annually more intrusive. The reality for both prime ministers was that Britain simply did not have the independent strength to ignore — still less defy — this force absolutely. Some kind of diplomatic accommodation needed to be reached. Yet each suffered from a section of their own party, and a tranche of the press, who saw the issues in grossly oversimplified terms and regarded any search for compromise as betrayal.

Chamberlain’s geostrategic vision was clear — if cynical. The purpose of appeasement (at that time a perfectly respectable word) was to placate Germany in the West while tolerating — covertly if possible — the “adjustment” of territorial boundaries in the East which could, and should, have made a conflict between Russia and Germany inevitable.

Indeed it had been Chamberlain’s predecessor, Baldwin, who, at a private meeting in 1934, four years before the Munich crisis, said that the best chance for Britain’s survival lay in the two dictatorships (“the Hunns and the Bolsheviks”, as he put it) bleeding each other to death — or at least impotence.

Mr Major has a similar assignment, in that patience and diplomatic guile are more likely to lead to the moderation of a force which — despite its inherent contradictions — looks ultimately to be profoundly menacing for British independence. If, or when, the European Union in its present form actually moves into a full federal structure with a single currency, the consequences should be clear to any unprejudiced observer. Social and economic imbalance, aggravated by bureaucratic incompetence and corruption, will rapidly bring about a situation which the Bundesbank cannot control.

Whether the German Government sees and acts on this before or after implosion takes place will be one of the conundrums of the next five years. But it will certainly be a situation, like the conflicts in eastern Europe in 1939, where Britain will be more comfortable as a spectator than as a participant.

Chamberlain had the advantage of a far larger parliamentary majority than Mr Major. Dissidents were fewer in number; nor were they popular, many of them, even in their own constituencies. Yet in the end, the pressures on Chamberlain were such that he had to enter into a series of pacts and regional alliances that were both impractical and dangerous.

In Mr Major’s case he has suffered the additional vulnerability of a parliamentary majority so small that malcontents have been

able, often under a pretext that concealed their true, and frequently personal, motives, to disrupt business and exact concessions. And Mr Major, too, has been forced into the pretence, if not the substance, of seeking relationships with minor powers within the EU and apparently deluding himself with the notion that Britain was “speaking up for” the interests of the smaller continental nations. Like Chamberlain he has found himself compelled by the Foreign Office into a suppliant attitude to the French, whereas an earlier approach to establish mutualism of interest with Germany would have been more soundly based.

But, also like Chamberlain, Mr Major enjoys a private realism border on the cynical. The principal threat, both to the country’s equilibrium and to unity of the Tory party, is the approaching deadline for joining in the single currency. Mr Major’s finesse is to keep Britain on the fringe, a benign spectator, while thus wholly impractical and now largely cosmetic — if not actually fraudulent — scheme starts on its short and calamitous life.

Even at its inception, the euro will be much weaker than the Swiss franc, the yen and the (existing) mark. Warping the convergence criteria, and deliberate obfuscation of all that transparency of data which the Bundesbank had originally promised, will ensure that the whole structure collapses. It is an inevitable — though one assumes without loss of life on the same scale — as the collision between Germany and Russia in 1941 which Neville Chamberlain had foreseen as relieving the pressure on Britain.

Nor do the similarities end here. As well as virulent dissent from within his own parliamentary party, the Prime Minister has had to contend with a political opposition that is shamelessly opportunist.

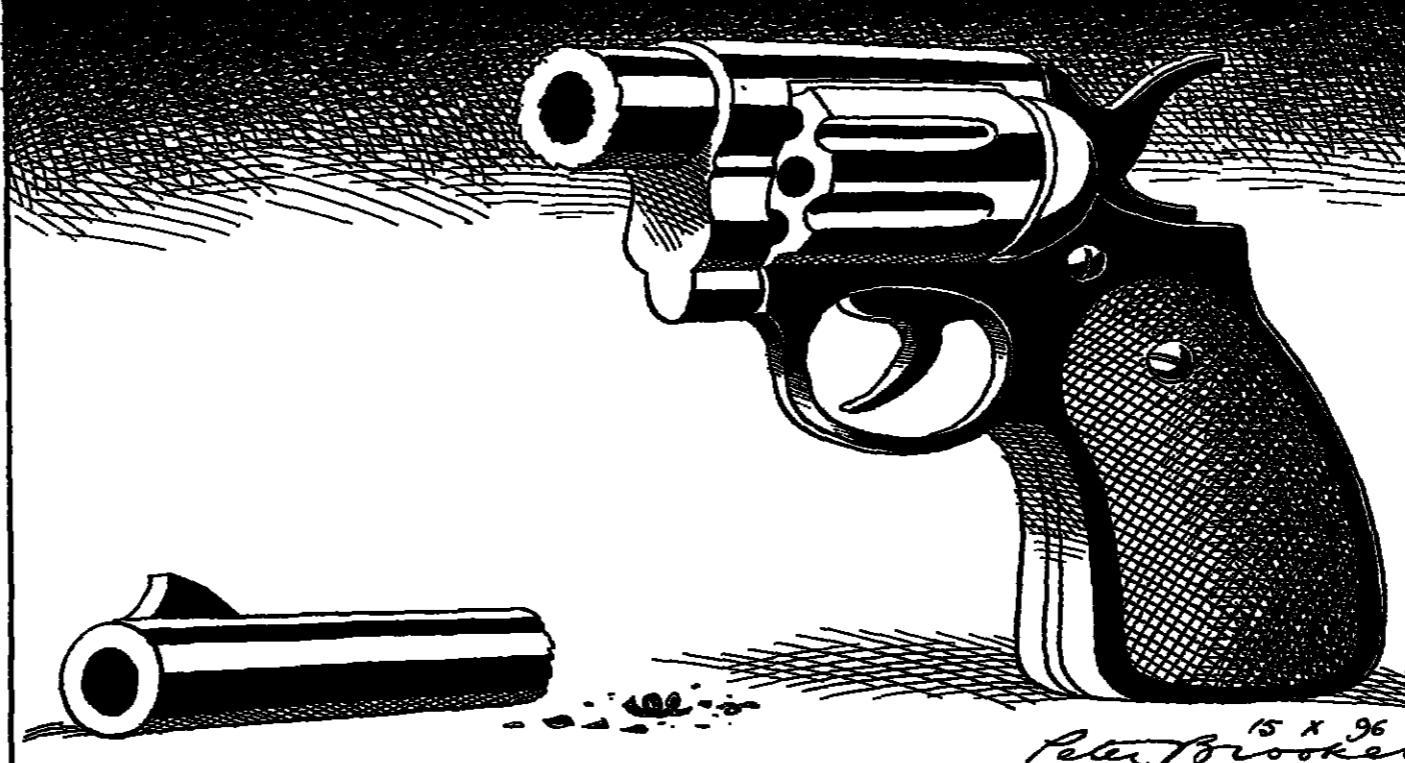
Just as the Labour Party in the 1930s was broadly pacifist, exploiting war weariness to oppose rearmament of any kind, so does it today pretend that “Europe” is no more than a source of additional benefit of “fairness” through the social chapter; and, through the European Court, of a benignly intrusive political correctness.

Just as in the 1930s, the electorate do not seem to care very much; or even to be capable of focusing on what is at stake. In party terms the dispute rages internally, and in the disputation of an intellectual elite. But, as in the 1940s, it will only assume real political significance when the electorate as a whole realises the extent to which they have been misled and the damage they have suffered.

This may yet be averted if Mr Major is allowed time to deploy his ingenious, though certainly unheroic, delaying tactics. Just as one should remember that Chamberlain, although determined to avoid our declaring war and fighting on the mainland of Europe, did commission the eight-gun fighters, the Chain Home Radar system and much else to support our defence as an island.) At Bournemouth John Major said a revealing phrase: “I believe in the politics of reason.” Let us hope for the country’s sake that he is not rejected in favour of an individual whose policies are so redolent of the delusion that, to paraphrase Rab Butler, “politics is the art of the plausible”.

Alan Clark’s history of the Conservative Party from 1922-97, Tories and the Nation State, is to be published by Weidenfeld next autumn.

WARNING: HALF MEASURES WON’T WORK



The overinformation

We are weighed down with useless facts — but a remedy is at hand

A big hand now, please, for a new disease. Stepping into the limelight to take its first bow is the very latest fin-de-millennium malady: Information Fatigue Syndrome. This is brought on by having too many pieces of information on tap, owing to the global electronic revolution and the fact that for the first time in history it is faster to process and transmit information than to read it (in the days of the quill pen and the manual typewriter, people thought twice before making the effort).

The disease has everything a modern ailment demands: panic attacks, palpitations, chronic exhaustion, joint pains, something called “e-mail rage”, and sufferers prepared to testify that it took them five years’ complete rest to get better. It can only be a matter of time before a celebrity succumbs in a public place, a pressure group is formed and poor Dr Stuttaford gets howled at again on the *Rantzen Report*.

Excellent, keep it coming, all this news saying. Knowledge is power but information can be disabling. A report published this week says that one in four people get ill as a result of having to handle too much information. It costs British industry 30 million lost working days a year, or £2 billion. There you are, another statistic to make you feel even worse. Unfortunately, 85 per cent of the UK managers also said that they needed the information: as long as the stuff is out there somewhere, they want it, even if it makes them poorly.

The psychologist Dr David Lewis extends this gloomy dilemma wider: “Professional and personal survival in modern society,” he says, “clearly depends on our ability to take on board vast amounts of new information. Yet that information is growing at an exponential rate”. He cites the old chestnut that a weekday edition of *The New York Times* contains more information than a 17th-century man or woman would have come across in a lifetime and points out that the sheer strain of wondering what we should know and where it is, means that we make stupid decisions and throw our bodies into a primitive “flight-or-fight” response. Brain chemicals command us to put a fist through the computer screen or run away and climb a tree; instead we have to stay

passively hunched over our reports, brochures, memos, manuals, graphs, tables and printouts, letting them eat us. And we get ill.

Even Sunday at home becomes threatening. Just when we are getting to grips with EMU or Sir Gordon Downey, we are distracted by being told which headhouse shampoos contain organophosphates, that haddock may become extinct any minute, and that they have changed the rules on private pensions again. And that is before professional worries begin: in my handbag I have been carrying around for eight months the telephone number of a man at Salomon Bros (according to a former Chief Whip I met at lunch) will explain EMU to me. I shall never ring him because there are too many conflicting explanations lying unread in the desk drawer already. It is not only journalists or analysts who feel a lurking guilt: everyone except a few lucky mystics, dimwits and drunks has moments when they wail: “Why don’t I know more about Mars, prison reform, Kabul, carbon-dating and which of the current round-the-world yacht races is which? The information’s there!”

Take heart. It is not defeatist or obscurantist to admit that not everybody can know everything. Information is not the same as knowledge, and has little to do with wisdom or skill. Information is just random ammunition: witness the editor of *Hedgehog* magazine waffling on the *Today* programme yesterday about how two-thirds of a tenth of 1 per cent, or possibly one-third of half a per cent, of British homicides were caused by legal guns. Mr Stevenson might have been a good apologist for his sport if he had stuck to explaining it and thinking hard about making it safer: he tried instead to be an instant expert on crime statistics, and got nowhere. Politicians, not satisfied with being half-baked amateur sociologists, feel obliged to

show their cultural breadth by singing cod Gilbert-and-Sullivan doggerel which doesn’t even scan (a terrible cry went up in this house during Mrs Bottomley’s rendition of her anti-Blair conference song: “If this is Heritage, give me the mess of portage!”). We can’t all be good at everything; we can’t all know everything. It is worth quoting correctly, for once, Pope’s much misquoted lines:

“A little learning is a dangerous thing.
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.”

*There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain
And drinking largely soaks us again.*

Given that the Pierian spring is now pourously over our heads 24 hours a day, there are two cures for information overload: one immediate and practical, the other touching on a trouble so deep that it will take longer.

The quick fix is obvious: erect filters. This takes determination. Zoologically, we are programmed to be distracted by everything. A wildebeest would not last long if it were too busy eating to notice the fresh lion-droppings round the waterhole. We instinctively swivel to every stimulus, but this must stop. Blind eyes must be cultivated. Pages turned, choices made.

In the business world, growing services provide business people with terse one-page newsletters on selected themes. Internet servers offer ever more sophisticated search facilities (though a correspondent of this paper claims to have been looking for “zen” and got alt.sex.seniorcitizens). That’s his story and he’s sticking to it. Businesses should make a priority of setting up filtering systems, and discourage e-mail abuse. For the rest of us it is notable that the publishing success of the year is *The Week*, a 30-page digest of British and foreign media done with wit, a genius for précis and such comforting headings as “Boring but Impor-

tant”. In a year it has come from a garage office and 1,000 subscribers to more than 10,000. It provides a fine security blanket for those who get anxious about missing things.

With self-discipline and such aids, filtering is possible and real experience again becomes visible over the mound of information. But now the difficult bit: if we are not to try and know everything, we have to trust other people to do it. While information is a glut commodity, trust has never been scarcer. The alarming slide in the reputation of public service in general and Parliament in particular is something that government has done remarkably little to halt, not even bothering to enforce the register of MPs’ interests. Trust in professionals crumbles apace: government accelerates this process through years of viciously insulting teachers, clergy, and public services. And who really trusts banks, since BCCI and Barings? Or IMRO, which gave the Maxwell pension scheme a clean bill of health?

In medicine, mutual trust is threatened by spiralling litigation. In commerce, it is crushed between marketplace ethics and aggressive consumer rights movements. We are unsure of what is in our food. In employment, casualisation and waste contracts make it foolish to trust your employer or your employee. Everyone watches their back, all the time.

But to do this you need a lot of information, too much to take in and still get your own job done. Panic is never far from the most ordinary aspects of life. Come now — do you really understand how your PEP works? Or did you just choose it because you liked the logo of the Mutual Equitable and Hardly At All Dodge Investment Trust?

That, really, is the problem. Society is very complicated now. Unless we restore trust in one another and in the professions, the outlook is grim. We will all chase so many facts that we lose our grip and enter a dark age of rumour. Unless we each drink deeper at our own well of learning, and trust those at the adjacent springs, we shall grow even less good at making rational decisions. The field will be left to snake-oil merchants, soothsayers with blue plastic pyramids and foxy eloquent journalists. Nightmare.

President of Ecuador, and currently besieging his native pop charts with his single “The Madman in Love”.

Cap happy

NO ONE is happier for Damon Hill than the members of the London Rowing Club, whose blue and white colours he wears on his helmet as his father did before him. Last week the club sent out a consignment of eight of their caps to the Williams team mechanics who wore them in the pits on Sunday as Hill clinched his world title.

Graham Hill had been a successful oarsman for the club while Hill Jr., though not known for his sculling, is an honorary member. “We were delighted to see our colours victorious off the water as well as on,” said Nigel Smith, club secretary. “We will be raising a glass to Damon at our club dinner.”

Asked by Gerd Housekeeping to name their husbands’ most annoying characteristic both Hillary Rodham Clinton and Elizabeth Dale came up with the same one: channel-hopping. “Like most men, my husband is an avid channel surfer,” said the First Lady. Mrs Dale was more blunt: “Bob and I enjoy watching television together in the evenings, but he always channel-surfs. It drives me nuts.”

P.H.S

Sleaze: a bad new wheeze

Labour’s smears will backfire, says Woodrow Wyatt

So Labour and the Lib Dems have made a pact jointly to hurl sleaze accusations at the Government and Tory MPs. That makes change. In April, at the Staffordshire South East by-election, the Lib Dems bitterly attacked Labour for their smear campaign against their candidate.

For Labour, sleaze is a cover to divert attention from the emptiness and obscurity of its somersaulting policies and promises. For the Lib Dems, it is a publicity stunt to cash in on the addition to their ranks of Peter Thurnham, the member for Bolton North East. Mr Thurnham’s majority of 185 in 1992 was further threatened by a boundary change. But for Mr Major — who, to general surprise, won the election and carried to victory Tory candidates who otherwise would have been defeated — Mr Thurnham would not have held his seat.

This man of principle was looking for a safe Tory seat. With a house in Westmorland and Lonsdale, he thought he would be onto a good thing to succeed the retiring Michael Jopling, whose majority was a healthy 16,000. Mr Thurnham thought Central Office support was his due. But did not even ask him to attend an interview. Officially they said that at 58, he was too old and they wanted someone younger. Privately, they thought little of him.

Thurnham was enraged and mysteriously blamed Mr Major, with whom (together with his wife) he had an interview before he announced last February that he would no longer take the Tory whip. If Westmorland had adopted him, he would still be rooting for Major. Set on revenge, he timed his announcement for the end of last week’s party conference, intending to damage Mr Major’s spectacular success. Mr Thurnham said he could no longer bear the sleaze among Tory MPs and the Prime Minister’s failure to deal with it.

It is possible to question his sincerity, though his wife’s loss of enthusiasm for baking cakes for Tory functions sounds genuine. His claim that a knighthood was hinted at to keep him quiet is fantasy. Knighthoods are never given to Tory MPs so briefly and unreliable in the Commons.

Chief cheerleader for the Lib-Lab aim to sleaze a big issue at next May’s election is *The Guardian*. It has made use, whether accurately or not, of documents lodged with the court in the collapsed Hamilton libel case. If these documents are the only source of the allegations, then *The Guardian* would appear to have committed contempt of court. I hope the appropriate legal authorities will now investigate.

Targeting sleaze is a dangerous game, running the risk of a boomerang. When Tony Blair was a shadow minister he accepted, through the offices of the now notorious Ian Greer acting for businessmen opposing a Washington Unitary Tax, a free return trip to the United States on Concorde. He did not declare the expenses of his visit in the Members Register of Interests. When this was referred to the Committee of Privileges, he accepted, through the offices of the now notorious Ian Greer acting for businessmen opposing a Washington Unitary Tax, a free return trip to the United States on Concorde. He did not declare the expenses of his visit in the Members Register of Interests. When this was referred to the Committee of Privileges, he accepted, through the offices of the now notorious Ian Greer acting for businessmen opposing a Washington Unitary Tax, a free return trip to the United States on Concorde. He did not declare the expenses of his visit in the Members Register of Interests. 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POWERS AND PROCEDURES

Sir Gordon must have the authority to clear Parliament's name

Madam Speaker has grasped the nettle. Parliament's reputation and the public's faith in public life have been endangered by the allegations against Neil Hamilton and others. She has asked for "all necessary steps" to be taken to investigate this matter fully. The step most needed would have been the establishment of a tribunal of inquiry. The powers and procedures of such a tribunal would have ensured an investigation which could command public confidence. The Government's refusal to set up an inquiry is an opportunity missed.

Instead, masters will be dealt with by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey. If Sir Gordon's inquiry is to restore faith in the Commons then its members must delegate powers to him similar to those any tribunal might have exercised.

The Government argues that no tribunal could be set up because it would infringe the Bill of Rights, which holds that no outside body can question proceedings in Parliament. The Government's regard for constitutional proprieties would command more respect if it had not acquiesced in the amendment of the same Bill of Rights to allow Mr Hamilton to waive privilege and pursue *The Guardian* in his now aborted legal action. The Bill of Rights was established to protect Parliament from an over-mighty executive. Now it appears that the executive is invoking the Bill of Rights to protect itself while Parliament's reputation continues to suffer. If the Bill of Rights can be amended to allow one man to clear his name then is it right that it should be interpreted to prevent the whole of the Commons safeguarding its reputation?

FAMILY FIRST

Blair has started but not finished the argument

The best test of Tony Blair's speech on family values yesterday will be to see who disagrees with it. If it is not to be merely a political tactic, it must contain genuine elements of contention. As ever with the Labour leader, those who are most likely to disagree with his analysis and prescriptions are those on his left. Although his views on the family are probably in tune with Labour's traditional voters, it will be fascinating to see if Labour's interest groups accept the challenge.

Mr Blair did not call for a return to the 1950s nuclear family. Women's fulfillment will not be expected to come from a sparkling kitchen floor. What Mr Blair lamented was the loss of "decent British values". His vision of a "decent society" was summed up as one whose values are based on those of the extended family, where members have a duty to care for one another, where giving is as important as taking, and responsibilities sit alongside rights. The family itself he recognised as the best training ground for inculcating these virtues, without which a decent society cannot function. So the family is extolled both as metaphor and reality.

The policy prescriptions that extend from this include a collective duty to attend to the new underclass, individual duties on parents to restrain their wayward children and the duty of the welfare recipient to accept work or training opportunities in return for benefit. Government itself, meanwhile, should assess for each of its policies the impact that it will have on the family.

This sounds reminiscent of John Major's ill-fated attempt to go back to basics in 1992. But while Mr Major was obscure in his original prescription and seemed to want to roll back the permissive society, Mr Blair has taken immediate pains to emphasise that he is talking about personal morality in its widest sense, not as a euphemism for sexual morality.

AUSTRIAN ANXIETIES

Haider's success should surprise no one

The elections were only to the European Parliament, but the voting figures reverberate beyond the parliament's walls and beyond the borders of Austria. Jörg Haider's Freedom Party took its highest share of the vote since it burst onto the Austrian political scene a decade ago and Herr Haider now stands closer than ever to his objective of breaking up his country's ingrained habits of consensual coalition politics. Herr Haider's success may have sent a shiver down Europe's spine but no one can credibly claim to be surprised. Austria's mainstream parties show precious little sign of having learnt any useful lessons from the Freedom Party's steady rise.

Herr Haider's abilities as a mould-breaker do not efface his less attractive side. He tells foreign interviewers that he rejects immigration policies designed on racial lines while proposing tough immigration controls and insulting Turks, Bosnians and gypsies. His party's slate includes a Jewish candidate, but Herr Haider seems unworried when young members of his party deface Jewish graves or the police uncover connections between his followers and neo-Nazi groups.

But the argument which has propelled the Freedom Party to new heights exploits disappointment with Austria's membership of the EU. A survey released yesterday and funded by the European Commission found that after the also-disillusioned Swedes, Austrians were the least enthusiastic nation in the EU. The protest vote gathered by Herr

It would have been decisively in John Major's interest to establish a tribunal. Even after a successful conference sleaze allegations persist in undermining his administration. Decisive action which saw allegations investigated openly and the innocent cleared by a body untainted by association with the political process might have done much to restore faith in that process and his party. There is, after all, evidence of contact between a government whip and committee chairmen which suggests that the executive may have influenced parliamentary procedure during a previous Commons inquiry. The most effective means of rebuilding confidence in Parliament would be for it to yield graciously to a tribunal.

Unfortunately, it appears that no such body will be set up and so the Speaker is right to ask, in the interests of Parliament, that Sir Gordon be given the necessary powers to investigate matters authoritatively. Ideally, the whole House should now vote to give Sir Gordon powers to subpoena, compel evidence to be given under oath and allow cross-examination. Anything less would not allow Mr Hamilton, and others, their rights in natural justice. The evidence of Mr Hamilton's main accuser must be tested as stringently as it would be in court before judgment is passed.

By declining to establish an enquiry, the Government is placing a heavy burden on Sir Gordon. It must allow him to ask, in public, the necessary questions of all the participants. At stake is more than one administration's reputation; it is the standing of Parliament. A truly Tory Government should accept that the institution is more important than any of its current tenants.

We therefore urge the Home Office to remove all consensual acts from the list of offences covered by the proposed register.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director, Liberty.

DIANA LAMPLUGH,
The Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

GERISON LANDSDOWNE,
Children Rights Development Unit,

ANGELA MASON,
Stonehew.

JOHN REA PRICE,
National Children's Bureau.

National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1.

October 14.

Three-strikes' policy

*From Professor Emeritus
A. M. Coleman*

Sir, John Harding, the Chief Probation Officer for Inner London (letter, October 2), mentions only the temporary, negative effect of California's mandatory "three strikes and you're out" sentencing policy and not the positive side, which has already begun and promises to be long term.

The positive side is a substantial drop in crime being committed now. Many potential re-offenders are being deterred by the heavier penalties.

The negative side concerns earlier crimes already at the stage of prosecution. Criminals know that they can no longer escape full punishment by pleading guilty to a lesser crime in order to receive a shorter sentence in return for not wasting court time. Plea bargaining of this sort has meant that the convenience of the judicial system took precedence over fairness in the justice administered.

Now that recidivists face an automatic life sentence, they have nothing to gain from plea bargaining. Their options are only life imprisonment or acquittal, and for any hope of the latter they must plead "not guilty" and go to trial. This is what is clogging the courts; but once the initial backlog has been dealt with, the diminution of contemporary crime will leave the courts unburdened.

The initial problem should be less in this country, as plea bargaining is less common, and the Government has been relieving the courts by enlarging the scope for small claims to be transferred elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,
ALICE COLEMAN,
King's College London,
Department of Geography,
Strand, WC2.

October 5.

Powers of the Bar

From Mr Neil Addison

Sir, The suggestion that the Inns of Court might try to disbar barristers who have also qualified as solicitors (Law, October 8) would be a wholly unjustified abuse of the Bar's powers of self-regulation. Professionals should only be expelled from their profession if they are guilty of dishonest conduct or professional incompetence.

Rather than wasting time on this pointless exercise, the leadership of the Bar should get on with modernising the Bar's archaic rules so as to allow barristers to deal with clients directly, to form partnerships or to work as advocates in solicitors' firms.

Such a change would remove the reasons why barristers are regularly acting as solicitors in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL ADDISON
(Member of the Bar Council),
5 Garsdale Road,
Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear.
October 8.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for limits on sex-crimes register

*From the Director of Liberty
and others*

Sir, Last Tuesday at the Conservative Party conference the Home Secretary reaffirmed his intention to introduce a register of paedophiles.

This proposal, as set out in last June's Home Office consultation document, *Sentencing and Supervision of Sex Offenders*, does not confine the offenders to be included on the register only to those convicted of sex offences against children and young people. As it stands, most people convicted of any sex offence would be required to register.

This gives us deep concern. We believe that the proposed measures should exclude all who have engaged in consensual sexual acts, such as gay offences between consenting adults which remain criminalised and for which there is no heterosexual equivalent.

Society's grave concern over the safety of those who cannot protect themselves is well founded. However any proposed legislation must be properly targeted against those who pose an actual risk, and it is a grave error to equate those who commit violent crimes with those whose crimes have no victim: to apply the same broad brush to both these groups does a disservice not only to those who have been convicted of victimless crimes but also to those who have been affected by violent sexual crimes such as rape, especially child rape.

We therefore urge the Home Office to remove all consensual acts from the list of offences covered by the proposed register.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
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21 Tabard Street, SE1.

October 14.

'Crisis' of recruitment affecting the Church of England

*From the Reverend
J. Waddington-Feather*

Sir, The movement away from traditional stipendiary parish priests ("Church of England faces recruitment crisis", report, October 9) may mark a healthy sea change. In fact, it's a move back in the structure of the early Christian Church, where the laity took a very active role in pastoral ministry.

Traditionally, hold a freehold is patently wrong. There is today at least that number in training alone in two of the theological colleges.

Years faithfully,
ANTHONY W. ARCHER,
Manor End, Little Gaddesden,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
October 9.

From the Vicar of Thurgarton

Sir, Although the effect of "down-sizing" in industry has been criticised, the Church of England remains wed to downsizing its workforce, assuming that it will survive on the good works of a volunteer army of non-stipendiary ministers and other part-timers.

Bishops may appear to deplore the dwindling numbers offering themselves as full-time ministers, but they are at one in advocating a future which dispenses with the services of the paid clergy.

We need an independent royal commission to examine the future of the Church of England. Without it we are being presented with a visionary strategy, destined to end the national Church as we now know it, and where none will benefit except the fund-managers of Anglicanism – the Church Commissioners.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW de BERRY
(Secretary, Hereford Diocese
non-stipendiary ministers),
Fair View, Old Cottice,
Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
October 9.

From Mr Anthony W. Archer

Sir, Your report on Church of England recruitment in no way reflects the picture which I see as a member of General Synod and the Advisory Board of Ministry.

Caution is needed when projecting the number of clergy in the future. Over the past 100 years occasional falls in numbers have always been reversed. Readers and other laity increasingly share in the pastoral work traditionally done by the clergy. Nor is account taken of the 5,000 retired clergy, most of whom continue their ministry.

While the parish priest looks after the very young and the very old, many NSMs have active ministries at workplaces which is where most parishioners spend much of their time.

Furthermore, to say that only about

20 traditionally hold a freehold is patently wrong. There is today at least that number in training alone in two of the theological colleges.

Years faithfully,
ANTHONY W. ARCHER,
Manor End, Little Gaddesden,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
October 9.

From the Reverend Michael Fass

Sir, The Reverend Stephen Trotter states that non-stipendiary ministers (NSMs) are not available to the traditionally based parish in the same way as the stipendiary priest. In the Edinburgh diocese all NSMs are licensed to a parish and have a variety of pastoral duties in addition to taking services. For example, I am responsible for a group of people who are out of work.

While the parish priest looks after the very young and the very old, many NSMs have active ministries at workplaces which is where most parishioners spend much of their time.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. M. COOK
(Director of Training),
All Souls Church,
Langham Place, W1.
October 10.

Crossing the floor

From Mr John Hardman

Sir, Your report today on the departure of Mr Peter Thurnham from the Conservative Party is fair as far as it goes, but I would add an important point.

Mr Thurnham held Bolton NE in 1987 and 1992 against heavy odds and on the back of exceptionally hard work for the constituency. The Conservative Party has been happy to take the benefit of his devotion to duty, which is obviously fair enough in political life, but is not the party's shifty and spiteful reaction to Mr Thurnham's statements and decision itself somewhat sleazy?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARDMAN,
1 Ravenswood,
Chorley New Road,
Bolton, Lancashire.
October 14.

From Sir Robert Sanders

Sir, With reference to recent parliamentary events, readers may be interested in a proposal of the commission appointed in September.

The commission proposes that the constitution should provide that the seat of a member becomes vacant . . . if the member resigns from the registered political party for which he or she was a candidate at the time of election to Parliament, or, by reason of conduct in or relating to the proceedings of Parliament, the member is in breach of the rules concerning party discipline contained in the constitution of such a party, and for that reason expelled from the party, under the rules about expulsion contained in that constitution and in conformity with the requirements of natural justice.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SANDERS
(Secretary to the Cabinet,
Government of Fiji, 1970-79),
6 Park Manor,
Crief, Perthshire, Scotland.
October 13.

Minimum wage

From Mr Donald S. Brown

Sir, Why not enhance the dignity of labour by linking a statutory minimum wage to the statutory abolition of tipping?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD S. BROWN,
5 The Paddocks, Uphill,
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.
October 10.

Nanny's rules

From Mrs Heather Wood

Sir, I read your report on the Dulwich Nanny Agency ("From Mary Poppins to status symbol", October 10) with amazement. It seems that on the one hand the nannies supplied by this agency insist on being treated as one of the family, yet on the other hand they refuse to take rubbish out and want "sole use" of a car. Nannies like other employees, should be treated with courtesy and consideration, but one of the family? Spare us.

What a contrast with the obnoxious of the nanny Ruth Anslow (October 12). We are told that she would roll up her sleeves and help in any domestic crisis, and that after a lazy Sunday lunch she alone of the party noticed a small child falling into a swimming pool and plunged in to rescue him. The Dulwich nannies sound as if they would have been negotiating their overtime rates as the poor child expired.

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER WOOD,
55 Sotheby Road, N5.
October 13.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Independent women

From Mrs Elizabeth Dean

Sir, Is not the psychologist Dorothy Rowe wide of the mark when she says "Until the early part of this century most women had no way of supporting themselves, unless they worked in domestic service, or as prostitutes or had inherited money" (article, October 10)?

What of Marie Curie, Florence Nightingale, Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, Dorothy Beale, not to mention the countless musicians, teachers and governesses this country always produced who, we trust, managed to avoid some of the above-mentioned options.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH DEAN,
52 Addison Avenue, W1.
October 10.

Dinner for six



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 14: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Reception at St James's Palace to mark the Seventieth Anniversary of the Royal Protection of Rural England and also received the President (Mr Jean-Paul Diniery) and the Chairman (the Lord Marksford).

His Royal Highness, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon gave a speech at Frogmore House.

Windsor Homeless Trust.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the Lord Mayor's Appeal for St John Ambulance Dinner at Guildhall, London EC2.

The Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the Republic of Moldova and Mrs Speague and welcomed them on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 14: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new offices of Lucent Technologies, Windmill Hill Business Park, Swindon, and was received by Mr Michael Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire (Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Johnston).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, British Executive Service Overseas, this afternoon attended the Annual General Meeting and Annual Review at the Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, New Oxford Street.

London WC1.
The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, this evening held a Reception at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this evening visited the London and provincial Agricultural Development Association Agricultural Fair and Reception, held at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7, in aid of London Lighthouse, of which Her Royal Highness is Patron.

KENSINGTON PALACE

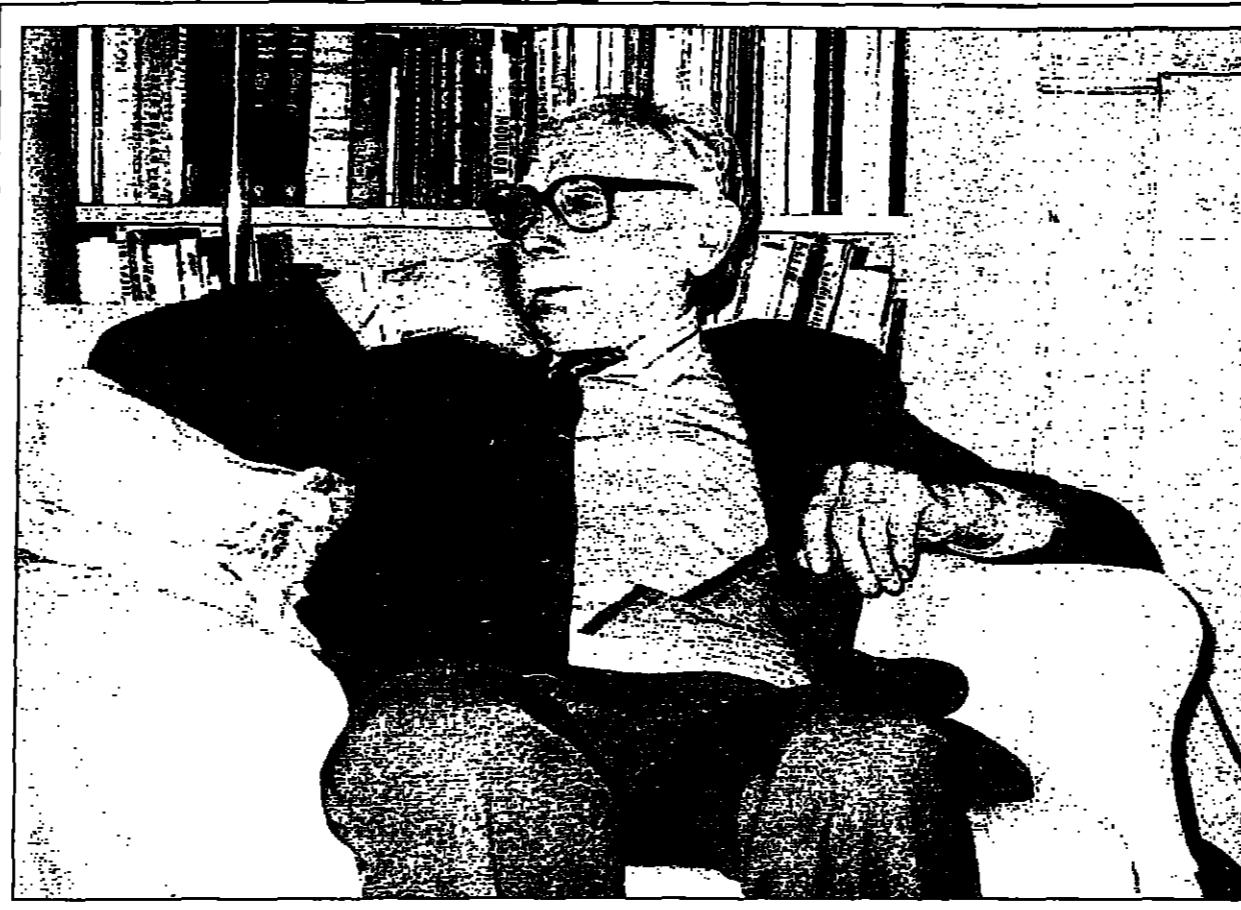
October 14: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Mrs Michael Harvey at the Memorial Service for Madame Kazuko Aso who died last night at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London W1, this morning.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

October 14: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a reception at Buck's Club, Clifford Street, London W1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

October 14: Princess Alexandra was represented by the Lady Moyra Campbell at the Memorial Service for Madame Kazuko Aso who died this morning in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London W1.



Eccentric leaves £1.3m to charity

ARTHUR McCULLAGH, who has surprised villagers in Wool, Dorset, by leaving £1.3 million in his will, Mr McCullagh, 78, who was known as Pat, lived in a "basic" three-bedroom bungalow. He died in June and was a widower with no children. Locals said that he used to walk around the village in Wellington boots, old overalls with the pockets torn off, a sack wrapped around him as an apron and a rope for a belt. He is thought to have inherited his

wealth from his mother and grandfather although he did own a caravan park. He bequeathed the bulk to four charities — the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, the British Heart Foundation, Help the Aged and the Brook Hospital for

Animals — and £20,000 to his parish council. Alan Brown, a neighbour, said:

"Years ago he injured himself and sewed four stitches in a gash over his eye rather than go to hospital. His wealth has come as a shock to people. They thought he was poverty-stricken. By the way he dressed most people thought he was a gardener." Rod Webb, the parish clerk, said: "We need a new sports pavilion. Perhaps we could build one and name it after him."

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will present the World Ship Trust's Maritime Hero Award, for individual achievement at Buckingham Palace at 10.30am as patron and trustee, will attend receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have achieved the gold standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, at 11.30 and 4.00; and will attend a dinner given by the Anglo-Chilean Society for President Frei of Chile at the Park Lane Hotel at 7.25.

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees, at BT Centre, EC1, at 11.00; as President of the Prison Crime Conference will visit Westminster Cathedral at the Council House, Marylebone Road, NW1, at 10.10, and The Fourth Feathers Youth Club, Ryehouse Road, NW1, at 2.35; and as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend the industry and commerce group meeting and corporate members' reception at Buckingham Palace at 4.00.

Princess Margaret, as President of Friends of the Elderly and Gentlefolk's Help, will attend a performance given by the students and members of the English National Ballet School, the English National Ballet School, Carley Building, Hornsey Road, SW9, at 1.30; and of the school and the Friends of the Elderly and Gentlefolk's Help.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit Vale Marine Centre, Vale Park, Marine Lane, New Brighton, at 1.45; will open Swanage Lodge Learning Disabilities Centre, Greenheys Road, Wareham, at 2.00; and will visit Premier Brands, Pasture Road, Moreton, Wirral, at 3.30.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust, will open the King Wing of the hospital at Hamstel Road, Harrow, Essex, at 3.00.

Luncheons

Rotary Club of London
The Lord Mayor of Westminster was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr Bill Cowen, president, was in the chair.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Virgil, Roman poet, Andes, near Manua, Italy, 70BC; Akbar, the Great, Mughal emperor of India 1556-1605; Umarak, Sind, India, 1542; Evangelista Torricelli, designer of the barometer, Faenza, Italy, 1608; Friedrich Nietzsche, philosopher, Rokken, Germany, 1844; John L. Sullivan, champion heavyweight boxer, Roxbury, Massachusetts, 1858; Miss Stiles, scientist and sex educator, Worcester, Edinburgh, 1880; Sir Pelham (P.G.) Wodehouse, humorist writer, Guildford, Surrey, 1881.

DEATHS: Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, soldier, founder of the city of Detroit, Castel Sarrasen, France, 1730; Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Polish patriot, Soleure, Switzerland, 1817; Gilbert à Becker, dramatist, and comic writer, London, 1891; Dame Marie Tempest, actress, London, 1942; Raymond Poincaré, President of France 1913-20, Paris, 1934; Pierre Laval, head of Vichy government 1942-44, executed, Paris, 1945; Hermann Goering, Nazi war criminal, committed suicide, Nuremberg, 1946; Cole Porter, song writer, California, 1964.

Alfred Dreyfus, a French officer, was arrested on a charge of treason, 1894.

The airship *Graf Zeppelin* landed in New Jersey after its first transatlantic crossing from Germany, 1928.

Leoni Brezhnev replaced Nikita Khrushchev as Communist Party General Secretary in Russia, 1964.

Baron Alderdice

The life barony conferred upon Mr John Thomas Alderdice has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Alderdice of Knock, in the City of Belfast.

Baron Paul

The life barony conferred upon Mr Sveni Paul has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Paul of Marylebone, in the City of Westminster.

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Dinners

Corporation of London

Alderman Sir Alan Trail, Lord Mayor *locum tenens*, and Lady Trail, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests at a dinner given by the Corporation of London last night at the Mansion House to mark the occasion of the visit of the President of Chile and Señora de Frei.

Saints and Sinners Club

Mr Guy Kindersley, Chairman of the Saints and Sinners Club of London, presided at the annual whitebait dinner held last night at the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich. Among those present were Lord and Lady John Spencer, Sir Miles Bailey, Miss Judith Chalmers and Mr Jimmy Tarbuck.

City of London Magistrates

Judge Henry Pownall, QC, and Mrs Pownall were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the City of London Magistrates held last night at Trinity House. Lady Cobbold presided. Sir Brian and Lady Jenkins, Mr and Mrs A.D. Cohen, Mr and Mrs B.E. Toye and Miss Janette Wright were among the guests.

Athenaeum

Sir Niel Cosons was the principal speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum. Professor John Duran was in the chair.

Church Adams Tatman

Mr Gordon R. Jones, Senior Partner, presided at a dinner to mark the 250th Anniversary of Church Adams Tatman which was held on Monday, October 14, 1996, at 1 Amherst House, Lord Burlington Street, London, Chancery Lane, EC2R 4AA.

MCDONALD-SCHUCHMAN

On October 13th in San Francisco, to Viviane (née Hickman) and Ned, a son, a brother to Andrew, a son, a daughter, Charlotte, and a son, a daughter, Alison.

FRATT

On October 12th in Sandra (née Charlesworth) and Kevin, a son, a daughter, Laura, a son, a daughter, Charlotte.

ROUTLEDGE

On October 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Sophie (née Ridder), a son, a daughter, Brian, a son, Maries, Anthony, a brother for Christopher, and Christopher, a son, a daughter, Sophie.

SHAWLES

On October 13th in Nicki, Tom, a son, a brother for Ferguson, Kevin, and a son, a daughter, Scarlett.

SMITH

On September 25th in Peter, much loved father of Colin, Brian and Howard. A dear and kind grandfather, sadly missed.

WHITE

On October 7th in Douglas, Edgar, a son, a daughter, and a much loved father of Colin, Brian and Howard. A dear and kind grandfather, sadly missed.

WILSON

On October 7th in Sophie, Christopher, and Philip, a son, Mark Mathew, a daughter, Emily.

WILSON

On October 10th in Claire (née Winter), a daughter, Hannah.

DEATHS

MAXWELL - MAJOR RONALD M.J.B.

Suddenly on October 9th 1996, recently retired Captain Barbara Maxwell, a daughter of John and Clive, and a son, Alexander. Geograpic Private cremation, memorial service at St James's Church, Kennington, London SE10, Wednesday 23rd October at 12 noon. No flowers please, but donations to Alzheimer's Disease Appeals Committee or Jersey Ambulance Care, St Helier & Les Landes, Jersey, 1st Floor, 29 Kennington Place, St Helier, Jersey, Tel: (01534) 33320.

Birthdays today

The Duchess of York celebrates her 37th birthday today.

Lord Ampthill, 75; Lord Baden-Powell, 60; Sir George Bishop, former chairman, Booker McConnell, 83; Mr Craig Chalmers, rugby player, 28; Sir Howard Colvin, architectural historian, 77; Professor J.K. Galbraith, economist, 88; Mr G.T. Goodall, former Headmaster, Exeter School, 67; Sir Julian Hodge, merchant banker, 92; Mr Alan Jones, chief executive, BICC, 57; Miss Catherine Lampert, director, Whitechapel Art Gallery, 50; Dame Anne Mueller, civil servant, 66; Baroness Perry of Southwark, 65; Mr Mario Puza, author, 76; Professor Charles Rees, former President, Royal Society of Chemistry, 69; Mr George Sava, author and consulting surgeon, 93; Baroness Serota, 77; Mr Billy Smart, circus owner, 62; Mr David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, 52; Mr Justice Vinelott, 73; Sir Christopher Walford, former Lord Mayor of London, 61.

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Mean Machine makes up ground on leading team



THE gap at the top of *The Times* Interactive Team Football overall competition has narrowed. Mr J. Staszkiewicz, from Ramsey, Isle of Man, remains the leader, but with only three points separating his team, NST Monkstone, from the second-placed Mean Machine, the first enforced mid-season break — due to international matches — has not done him any favours.

The weekly winner is Mr D. Mathieson, from Whitehaven, with his team I Ate Yorkshires. Mr Mathieson might be languishing in 129.37th place in the overall competition, but with 36 points this week, he gains the £250 prize.

Mr Mathieson's team is:

Goalkeeper
G Marshall (Celtic)

Full backs
L Dixon (Arsenal)
M Jackson (Everton)

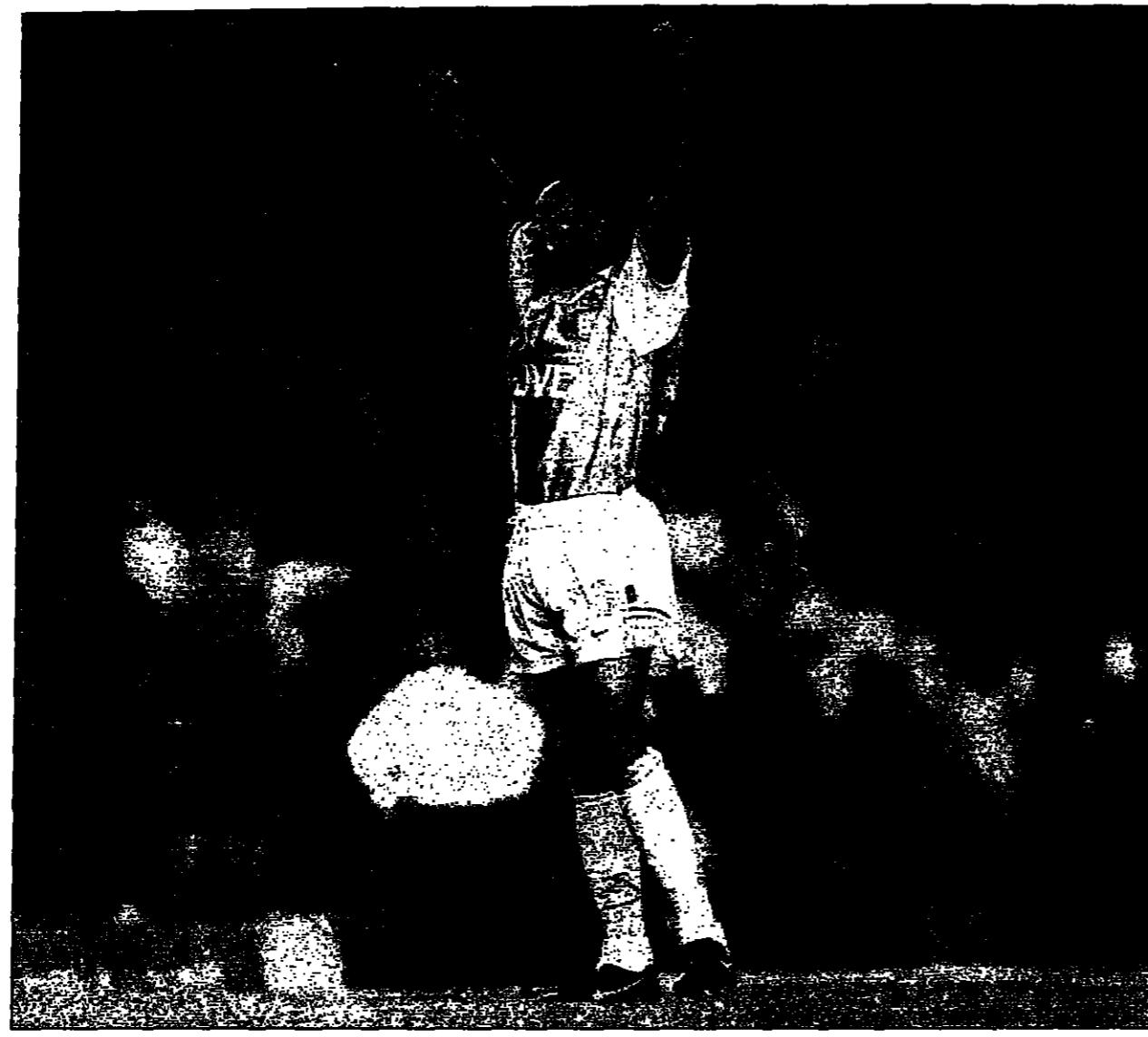
Central defenders
T Boyd (Celtic)
S Campbell (Tottenham)

Midfield players
D Beckham (Manchester Utd)
R Fox (Tottenham)
V Jones (Wimbledon)
R Wallace (Leeds)

Strikers
E Bo Andersen (Rangers)
G Stuart (Everton)

Manager
R Aitken (Aberdeen)

It is early days, but if your team could be doing better,



Ian Wright scored twice for Arsenal on Saturday. He is the leading striker in ITF, having notched up 26 points.



you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which allows

you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

□ All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 438 122.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS				
42611...	Eyal Berkovic MOVED	Southampton	£1.00m	
30003...	Paul McGrath (from Aston Villa) OUT	Derby County	£2.5m	
51903...	John Hendrie	Middlesbrough	£0.75m	

LOANED PLAYERS

E McGoldrick (Arsenal to Manchester City, one week); M Taylor (Derby to Crewe, one week); D Wassall (Derby to Manchester City, one month); C Holland (Newcastle to Sunderland, one month); G Surman (Sheffield Wednesday to Walsall, one month); S Wilson (Nottingham Forest to Reading, one week); R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, one month); S Fitzgerald (Wimbledon to Millwall, one month). Loan periods subject to fluctuation.

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Call the ITF check-in line on 0891 884 643
Outside UK 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Calls cost (per minute)
45p cheap rate,
50p other times

ENTER TIMES ITF BY TELEPHONE — THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. You could be a winner of either by entering a team today. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

You can still be a big winner in ITF. To enter today, just follow the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).

2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.

3. Do not spend more than £35 million.

4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.

5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.

a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.

b) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.

c) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.



See Sky Ted, page 118

0891 calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate and 50p per minute at all other times. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	Scored goal	4pts
Scores goal	3pts	
Saves penalty	1pt	
Full back/Central defender	All players	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	Appearance	1pt
Scores goal	3pts	
Manager	Scores hat-trick	6pts
Middlefield player	Team wins	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	Team draws	1pt
Scores goal	2pts	

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	Manager	1pt
Sent off	Team losses	1pt

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfielders, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out Club	Player in Club	Player code

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	NST Monkstone	(J Staszkiewicz)	188	107	AC Farnsby FC	(M Skipper)	158	186	Steven's Wonders	(S Montgomery)	154
2	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	185	108	Wollaston Wolves	(D Garrett)	158	185	Latent Margate	(G Bayliss)	154
3	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	181	109	Alien XI	(A Djemil)	158	186	Milton's Marauders	(M Milton)	154
4	Skyforest	(A Burton)	181	110	Smelly Wellies XI	(A Shabir)	158	186	Essex Eagles 96 FC	(C Jennings)	154
5	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	178	111	Carless Whisper	(L Geary)	158	186	Brahminos United	(G Weisz)	154
5	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	178	112	R and N Flashboys	(R Brown)	158	186	First Eleven	(L Sawrey)	154
5	Plastic Filters 10	(T Feely)	178	113	Lessasons One	(M Price)	158	186	Jamie's Giants	(J Allen)	154
8	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	177	114	Give Chesterfield	(K J Burns)	157	189	Mogg Town	(B Moggeridge)	153
8	Gangsters	(A Loar)	177	115	A2	(K Farwell)	157	189	Dutch Courage	(R van Ruitzenbeek)	153
10	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	175	116	Hoggy's Rovers	(A Rigg)	157	189	Tim's Tigers	(T Jordan)	153
10	North's Ark	(G P Dolan)	175	117	The Foreign Legion	(A Cheung)	157	189	Turner's Farmers 3	(P Turner)	153
12	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	174	118	Joywalkers	(D Ashton)	157	189	Blae Bell Academical	(M Smith)	153
12	Stern	(P Mills)	174	119	The Chippies	(C Potter)	157	189	Abe	(M Barber)	153
14	Black United	(P Merlyn)	173	120	Champions Elect	(L Spence)	157	189	J And B	(J Beresford)	153
14	Beyond Fault	(P Beresford)	173	121	Joe's Hobbits	(N Howe)	157	189	GPS	(G Sutcliffe)	153
14	Pin Ups Two	(P Tilly)	173	122	Perfecto Allstars	(A Plano)	157	189	Ivy's Besti	(D Tuthill)	153
14	Tilly's Tops	(D Tulip)	173	123	Ashley FC	(L A Taylor)	157	189	Dazz	(D Owens)	153
18	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	172	124	Berry's Team	(S Matthews)	157	189	Teb's Toppers	(A Tebatt)	153
18	Hopeful Hotshots	(H Rimmer)	172	125	Horizon Split	(J Fotherby)	156	189	The Foreign Legion	(S Allen)	153
20	1st Elekt	(K Burns)	171	126	Whifed	(G Alkin)	156	189	PJB Rovers		

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk Crv
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -3	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	+5 +5	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+5 +21	
10202	V Bartrem	Arsenal	0.75	0 0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 -8	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	-2 -2	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +6	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-3 -13	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 0	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	+2 -1	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	+0 +10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	-1 -11	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-1 -16	
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0 0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 0	
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-1 -5	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	+5 +5	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0 0	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	-5 +18	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-1 -1	
11102	J Kearton	Everton	0.50	0 0	
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0 0	
11201	G Rousset	Hearns	2.00	-1 -17	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	+6 +6	
11401	D Lekovic	Leeds United	1.00	+5 +21	
11501	M Beevley	Leeds United	1.50	0 0	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 0	
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5 -5	
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0 0	
11602	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	-5 -8	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1 +11	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+5 +11	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +5	
11901	G Welsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 0	
12001	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-0 -14	
12002	S Howle	Motherwell	1.50	-1 +4	
12003	S Histon	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -3	
12004	P Smicer	Newcastle United	3.00	+5 +4	
12005	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-3 -15	
12006	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0	
12007	B Bright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0	
12008	S Thomson	Raih Rovers	0.50	-1 -20	
12009	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	+3 +13	
12010	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-7 -12	
12011	D Sessant	Southampton	1.00	-0 -10	
12012	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	-1 +2	
12013	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0 0	
12014	A Colton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5 +10	
12015	I Waller	West Ham United	2.00	-3 -16	
12016	L Milenko	West Ham United	0.50	+5 +5	
12017	S Maitone	Wimbledon	1.00	-2 +8	
12018	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0	
12019	P Headl	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0	



Alan Shearer has been in prime form recently. With 21 points in ITF to his credit, can you afford to leave him out?

FULL TEAM

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk Crv
20101	S McNamee	Aberdeen	2.00	+4 +7	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+4 +11	
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+4 +12	
20203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	0 +4	
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+0 +10	
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+0 +11	
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0 0	
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0 0	
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+5 +5	
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1 -6	
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 0	
20403	J Kenny	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1 -5	
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-1 +3	
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	+4 +3	
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	0 +1	
20601	D Petrescu	Celtic	3.00	+0 +10	
20602	S Clarke	Celtic	2.00	-1 +7	
20603	T Phelan	Celtic	2.00	0 0	
20604	S Minto	Celtic	1.00	0 +3	
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-1 -6	
20702	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	-1 -2	
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	-0 +4	
20705	R Genaux	Coventry City	1.50	-0 -2	
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	-1 +3	
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	-0 -2	
20803	J Kavanagh	Derby County	0.25	0 0	
20804	P Parker	Derby County	1.00	-0 +4	
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	-0 +8	
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	+2 +2	
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0 0	
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -6	
21011	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	-2 -7	
21012	M Hottinger	Everton	2.50	0 0	
21013	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	-1 +4	
21014	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	-0 +7	
21015	M Jackson	Everton	1.00	0 0	
21016	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0 0	
21017	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	-0 +9	
21018	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	-0 +9	
21019	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	-0 +9	
21020	G MacPherson	Hibernian	0.50	+4 +6	
21021	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+3 0	
21022	A Dongo	Leeds United	2.50	-1 -4	
21023	P Beesley	Leeds United	0.50	0 0	
21024	M Whitlow	Leicester City	0.50	-2 +6	
21025	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	-3 +4	
21026	N Lewis	Leicester City	0.50	-3 +4	
21027	F Rolling	Leicester City	0.25	0 0	
21028	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0 0	
21029	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	0.50	+0 +16	
21030	P Charnock	Liverpool	0.50	0 0	
21031	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	+4 +21	
21032	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	+4 +15	
21033	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	+0 +3	
21034	R Elliott	Middlesbrough	2.50	-1 -1	
21035	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	+4 +4	
21036	S Pearce	Newcastle United	2.50	-1 -6	
21037	B Boncristiano	Newcastle United	2.50	-1 -6	
21038	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 0	
21039	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.25	0 0	
21040	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	+2 +2	
21041	R Gaughan	Motherwell	1.50	-0 +7	
21042	A McLaren	Motherwell	1.50	-0 +7	
21043	J Bjorklund	Newcastle United	3.00	+0 +13	
21044	D Walker	Newcastle United	4.50	+4 +14	
21045	B Linighan	Newcastle United	3.00	+4 +6	
21046	K Monks	Newcastle United	1.50	-0 +4	
21047	A Nellson	Newcastle United	1.50	-1 -4	
21048	T McAllister	Newcastle United	1.50	-1 -4	
21049	I Solley	Newcastle United	1.50	-0 +12	
21050	D Hillier	Newcastle United	1.50	-0 +12	
21051	G Abbott	Newcastle United	1.50	-0 +12	
21052	R Drayton	Newcastle United	1.50	-0 +12	
21053	S Nethercott	Newcastle United	1.50	-0 +12	
21054	G Petric	Newcastle United	2.50	+0 +4	
21055	J Newosome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-3 -3	
21056	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-3 -3	
21057	T Redknapp	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-3 -3	
21058	I Solley	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-3 -3	
21059	D Hall	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-3 -3	
21060	R Ord	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-3 -3	
21061	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4 +13	
21062	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4 +10	
21063	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00		

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 1996

NEWS

Speaker urges full sleaze inquiry

The Speaker increased pressure on the Government over the cash-for-questions affair by demanding a full and speedy investigation into "very serious" allegations made over the past three weeks.

Betty Boothroyd's intervention on the Commons' first day after the summer recess means that the parliamentary watchdog is likely to get more staff and other resources for a wide-ranging inquiry over several months. Pages 1, 2, 11, 20, 21

Mowlam pleads with jailed terrorists

Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, tried to shore up the loyalist ceasefire by meeting 12 Protestant paramilitary inmates at Maze prison. They told her that their ceasefire would be maintained only if London and Dublin clamped down on the IRA. Page 1

Cullen eschews ban

Lord Cullen is believed to have stepped back from calling for a total ban on handguns in his report on the Dunblane massacre, which has been delivered to the Government. Page 1

Mercy killer freed

A man who killed his brother to end his suffering from a degenerative illness walked free from court after his case was described as exceptional. Page 8

Block on diabetic

A diabetic man has been refused permission to emigrate with his family to Australia because he may impose too heavy a burden on the country's health system. Page 9

'Le Trib' cuts costs

The International Herald Tribune, the American newspaper which first began publishing in Paris more than 100 years ago, may soon be driven back to the United States by high costs. Page 12

Anti-EU vote

A group fiercely opposed to European integration made the strongest gains in Austria's European Parliament elections. Page 13

Promotion doubts

The second most senior officer in the Army could be beaten to its top post of Chief of the General Staff in a string of Defence Ministry appointments. Page 4

Merson on his own

The footballer Paul Merson and his wife disclosed that their six-year marriage had collapsed under the strain of his recovery from addictions to drinks, drugs and gambling. Page 5

Muddy voyage through time

A boat enthusiast who, 21 years ago, dug out a derelict Victorian yacht from the mud of an Essex estuary with his bare hands has been told that the vessel could now be worth more than £1 million. Edward VII and the future George V are believed to have been among those who were entertained on board the Sorceress. Page 7



Seeing spots: part of the ready-to-wear collection by the Japanese designer Junko Koshino on the catwalk in Paris yesterday

BUSINESS

Euro conflict: Kenneth Clarke put Britain at odds with Germany and many other EU members over single currency plans. Page 27

Bounce back: Stephen Hinchliffe, whose collapsed Facia empire is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office, is using a £50 million German shoe chain to fund a possible return to the business arena. Page 27

Economy: Encouraging figures on industrial costs and prices helped the stock market to hit another record high. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 11.9 to close at 4040.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 87.8 to 88.0 after a rise from \$1.5757 to \$1.5795 and from DM2.4124 to DM2.4158. Page 52

Anti-EU vote

A group fiercely opposed to European integration made the strongest gains in Austria's European Parliament elections. Page 13

Clinton fallout

Two of President Clinton's top advisers, George Stephanopoulos and Defence Secretary William Perry, disclosed that they may not serve in a second Clinton Administration. Page 16

Warlords target Kabul

Forces opposing Taleban met in the strategic Salang Pass to discuss moving south to capture Kabul, the Afghan capital, from the Islamic militia. Page 17

Muddy voyage through time

A boat enthusiast who, 21 years ago, dug out a derelict Victorian yacht from the mud of an Essex estuary with his bare hands has been told that the vessel could now be worth more than £1 million. Edward VII and the future George V are believed to have been among those who were entertained on board the Sorceress. Page 7

SPORT

Rugby union

The Scottish Rugby Union has banned an Edinburgh Academicals prop for four years for serious foul play. The player may face criminal charges. Page 47

Football: Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, has been charged with misconduct by the FA for his offensive salute to Tottenham Hotspur supporters. Page 52

Motor racing: Damon Hill, the 1996 Formula One champion, has been riding on the Bullet Train between Nagoya and Tokyo, celebrating his title victory. Oliver Holt joined him. Page 52

Racing: The Derby is to have a supplementary entry stage for the first time in its 216-year history, to ensure participation of the best horses. Page 46

Power struggle: For once the sponors take a back seat as servant and master assume command in Glyndebourne's touring production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. Page 38

ARTS

Oxford honours: After a £4 million lottery-funded facelift and several narrow escapes, the Oxford Playhouse is to open tomorrow with a world premiere. Page 36

Classical choice: The weekly guide to building a record library looks at Wagner's *Parsifal*, and Karajan takes the honours with the Berlin Philharmonic. Page 37

Rubens in the country: The National Gallery shifts its focus from far ladies to Rubens's stunning landscapes in an important new exhibition. Page 37

Power struggle: For once the sponors take a back seat as servant and master assume command in Glyndebourne's touring production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. Page 38

FEATURES

Don't look back: Pamela Bordes and Andrew Neil, former Editor of *The Sunday Times*, were lovers in 1989. She feels no fondness for his autobiography. Page 18

The Second Sex? In day two: did men need to think of women as weak in order to feel strong? Maura Freely on ress of feminism: Giles Coren on manliness: Lotte Hughes on warriors. Page 19

LAW

New Supreme Court? Are the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary (their full title) becoming more extraordinary? Plus this year's Times Law Awards. Page 39

Protecting old age: The new laws governing occupational pensions are causing upheaval within the industry. Page 41

On the doorstep: Businesses in the North East are spoilt for choice when it comes to finding commercial lawyers. Page 45

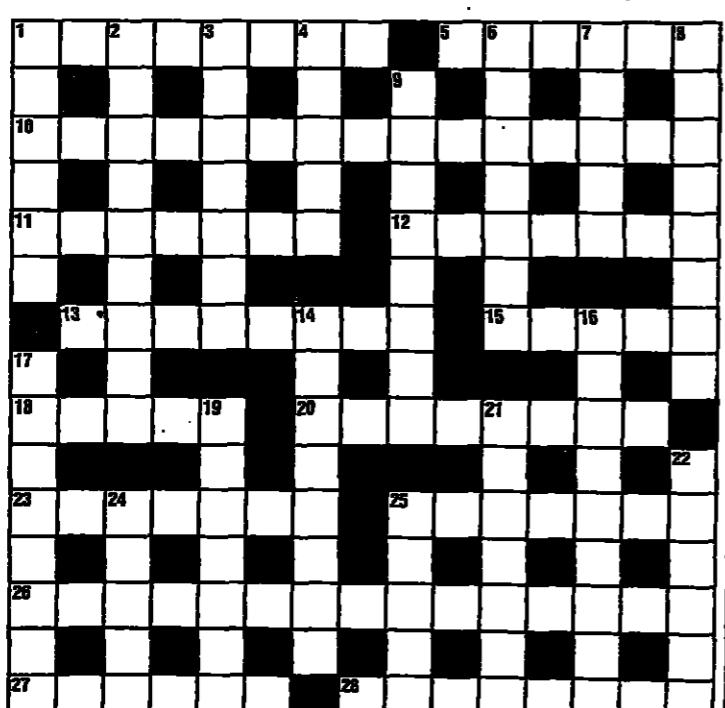
OPINION

Jörg Haider, with his ultranationalism and his sneering approach to European integration, has achieved a better result in the Austrian elections to the European Parliament than even he could have hoped for... His steady electoral progression, with its basis in hostility to a Europe directed from Brussels, should give cause for thought to other members of the EU. — ABC, Madrid

LETTERS

Church of England recruitment; paedophile register; sentencing policy: Peter Thurnham, MP. Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,299



For the latest AA trafficwatches, information 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Local traffic, residential areas within 150m:

Area within 150m:

Area within 150m:

National traffic and roadworks:

National motorways:

Local roads:

First quarter October 19

London 6.07 pm to 7.27 am

Edinburgh 6.12 pm to 7.47 am

Manchester 6.12 pm to 7.38 am

Penzance 6.30 pm to 7.46 am

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.25 am; **Sun sets:** 6.07 pm;

Moon rises: 7.56 pm; **Moon sets:** 10.28 pm

First quarter October 19

London 6.07 pm to 7.27 am

Edinburgh 6.12 pm to 7.47 am

Manchester 6.12 pm to 7.38 am

Penzance 6.30 pm to 7.46 am

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have showers and sunny intervals. In eastern regions, rather more persistent rain will be slow to clear in the morning but then the day will be mostly dry. Wales and other western regions will have the heaviest and most frequent showers. Temperatures will be around normal.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunshine and showers, mostly in the west, though the northeast corner of Scotland will have steadier rain at first. Temperatures near average.

London, SE, E England, E Anglia: Early rain clearing then sunny spells with a few showers. Wind southwesterly moderate to fresh. Cooler. Max 14C to 15C (57F to 59F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain clearing then sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Wind southwesterly fresh to strong, later swinging southwesterly. Cooler. Max 11C to 13C (52F to 55F).

Cent S, Cent N, NE England, Midlands, Channel Isles, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: Dry at first, a few showers. Wind southwesterly. Cooler. Max 13C to 15C (55F to 59F).

Outlook: Sunny spells and showers, mostly in north and west. Cooler.

— ABC, Madrid

few showers later. Wind southwesterly moderate to fresh. Cooler. Max 13C to 15C (55F to 59F).

SW, NW England, Wales: Sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Wind southwesterly moderate to fresh. Cooler. Max 14C to 15C (57F to 59F).

Lakes, IoM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Wind southwesterly fresh locally strong. Cooler. Max 11C to 13C (52F to 55F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain clearing then sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Wind southwesterly fresh to strong, later swinging southwesterly. Cooler. Max 11C to 13C (52F to 55F).

Cent S, Cent N, NE England, Midlands, Channel Isles, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: Dry at first, a few showers. Wind southwesterly. Cooler. Max 13C to 15C (55F to 59F).

Outlook: Sunny spells and showers, mostly in north and west. Cooler.

ABROAD

Austria: 21 70 C Dubrovnik 12 55 C

Africa: 21 71 F Matadi 17 57 C

Algeria: 21 71 F Algiers 17 57 C

Angola: 21 70 C Luanda 17 55 C

Azerbaijan: 21 70 C Baku 17 55 C

Austria: 21 70 C Vienna 17 55 C

Bahrain: 21 70 C Manama 17 55 C

Bangladesh: 21 70 C Dhaka 17 55 C

Banladesh: 21 70 C Dhaka 17 55 C

Bulgaria: 21 70 C Sofia 17 55 C